

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only

received FEB 28 1984

date entered

1. Name

historic North Avenue Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Park Avenue, North Avenue, Watchung Avenue ^{gand} N/A not for publication

city, town Plainfield — vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state New Jersey code 034 county Union code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple - see Survey forms

street & number

city, town — vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Plainfield City Hall

street & number 515 Watchung Avenue

city, town Plainfield, New Jersey state New Jersey 07060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey (HABS-NJ-142) has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1935, 1941, 1961-2 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

Most buildings in the North Avenue Commercial Historic District were constructed between 1875 and 1925. The buildings erected in this 50-year span have a vigorous, self-confident air. Plainfield merchants took pride in their city and their places of business. A predominant number of buildings from this 50 year period are intact and functioning.

Missing from the District today are the horses (with their dung and flies), the wagons, carts and buggies which met the 88 trains that stopped daily in 1901. Also missing is the coal soot emanating from the 88 steam engines, a permeating soot which fostered the color black in outerwear and necessitated fresh paint and wallpaper every spring.

The North Avenue Historic District building exteriors have been maintained in good repair, the upper floors in mostly original condition. Only a few street level store fronts are in original condition, however; they have been periodically "modernized" to keep them commercially attractive.

There are thirty-three properties in the district; of these, twenty-one buildings were built between 1875-1900, nine were built between 1901-1930, and the Friends Meeting House was built in 1788, long before the CRRNJ stimulated growth. There are two vacant lots.

The attached survey forms describe all properties in the districts.

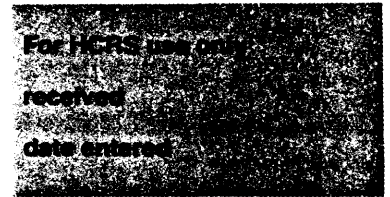
The North Avenue Historic District is located close to the center of the business district of Plainfield, New Jersey. Its boundaries are from 202 Park Avenue along North Avenue exact to the railroad stations. The District continues to the Friends Meeting House and the Post Office on Watchung Avenue.

The buildings on North Avenue are designed in free spirited Victorian interpretations of the Italianate, Neo Grec, Romanesque, and Renaissance styles spanning the years and designs -- of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The heart of the District is along North Avenue and the west - and east-bound depots where there is a remarkable retention of the original architectural design.

North Avenue is bound on the east by Watchung Avenue and on the west by Park Avenue, a busy retail and banking center. These boundary

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streets contain the Friends Meeting House, (1788), the United States Post Office, (c. 1915), and the United National Bank building, (c. 1905).

Although dissimilar in age, style, and function, the buildings in the District have an overall effect of cohesion. Similarity of height, scale and volume create a unified streetscape. Within the proposed Historic District there are few intrusions. Out of 47 lots, only two parking lots exist. The alterations that have been made to the store fronts reflect the stylistic changes of ongoing architectural trends, but original stylistic details remain.

The boundaries define the area of commerce that at the turn of the century flourished around the railroad stations, catering to daily commuters and travelers. The rhythm and interest of this late 19th century and early 20th century hub of travel and light commerce survive within the District, expressed in its diverse architectural styles.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1875-1925

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The North Avenue Commercial Historic District is a distinctive collection of masonry Victorian commercial buildings which developed around Plainfield's Central Railroad of New Jersey train stations.

This section of the city contains a relatively well preserved group of turn of the century Victorian commercial buildings. To highlight this exceptional cluster of structures, there are five examples of period architecture used in public buildings.

On the southeast corner of the proposed District is the Quaker Meeting House, the oldest street survivor and a vital link to the city's past. The church acts as an important boundary delineator.

The first inland settlement in the State was in 1684 in what later became Plainfield. In two subsequent years English grantees John and Robert Barclay established their plantation "Plainfield". Quaker John Laing bought Plainfield Plantation c. 1710 and it remained in the early settlement family for two generations. It was there that the first Quaker meeting was held in 1713. The members were known as "of the Plainfield Meeting" to distinguish them from other Quaker sites. In 1736 the first meeting house was erected on the grounds of the plantation. When the Friends decided to expand and build a larger house of worship in 1788, they selected acreage in the community of Milltown (later Plainfield) with a large Quaker population and business and agricultural opportunities. The name Plainfield Meeting was retained and when the Post Office was established in 1800, the town name was taken from this Quaker Meeting House. The simplicity of the architecture reflects the simplicity of worship. By rejecting the traditional basilica type of church, the Quakers sought to purify their religion. The Meeting House resembles a late medieval English dwelling with any open central space for addressing the congregation. It remains faithful to its original form without significant alteration.

Through the years the Meeting House, on its original site, and still in use as a house of worship nearly 200 years later, has been a peaceful constant in the ebb and flow from village to urban character. Dating from the late 18th century roots of Plainfield, this historical resource remains an architectural heirloom giving a sense of continuity and permanence to the downtown area. It is the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property nine +

Quadrangle name Plainfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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5	4	8	7	6	0
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4	4	9	6	2	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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5	4	9	0	4	0
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4	4	9	6	5	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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4	4	9	6	4	8	0
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D

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4	4	9	6	3	8	0
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E

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5	4	9	0	8	0
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4	4	9	6	3	2	0
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F

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5	4	9	0	0	0
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4	4	9	6	2	6	0
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G

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5	4	8	9	6	0
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4	4	9	6	3	0	0
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H

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5	4	8	8	6	0
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4	4	9	6	2	4	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lyn Rupp

organization Plainfield Business Men's Association date May 1, 1983

street & number 5 Heritage Drive telephone 201-356-2985

city or town Warren state New Jersey 07060

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Myers

title Director, Division of Parks & Forestry

date 2-9-84

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/29/84

Shelton Byer
Keeper of the National Register

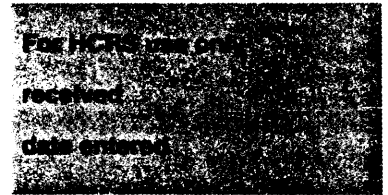
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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only part of the proposed district that has mature trees and green lawns offering a welcome respite. On its own, with its historic associations and distinctive architectural style, the Quaker Meeting House would qualify for National Register Nomination.

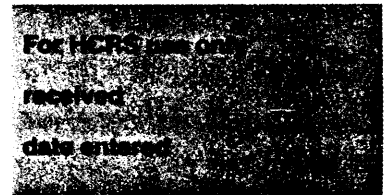
Next to the Meeting House, solidly anchoring the northeast corner of the District in a fine Neo-Classic style is the United States Post Office, built in 1915. The importance of communication to members of the community and the essential connection to stimulate and facilitate commercial growth were acknowledged with the establishment of the first Plainfield Post Office in 1800. It was located in a home on the corner of what is now Front and Somerset Streets. It was moved through the years until its present location was selected in 1915. Centrally located and easily accessible to the business community in the North Avenue area and beyond, the mail was readily processed for the well ordered business correspondence and transactions. Unlike today, mail delivery was more frequent, and anxious customers could go to the "windows" to inquire if important mail had arrived. And they could expect the postal attendant to check for them. The Post Office is in very good condition. A later addition, entirely in keeping with the original Classic Revival structure, points up the importance of the U.S. Mail to the commercial and industrial growth, which went hand-in-hand with the development of the City.

Lending weight and authority to the northwest corner of the District is the United National Bank building. This Neo-Classic structure visually represents an impressive gateway to North Avenue. The parent bank was founded in 1864 and through two mergers became the Plainfield Trust Company. In 1905 the bank moved to its present location at 202 Park Avenue in the heart of a busy commercial and service oriented district. Listed among the "firsts" in New Jersey banking, the Trust Company elected the first woman officer in 1912 and offered the first Christmas Club accounts in the same year. The building, in keeping with growth of the City, was enlarged in 1926, with two more Ionic columns added across the facade. The basic Classic Revival style remained the same. It is a familiar sighting and represents a fitting visual symbol for the commercial success and material progress of Plainfield.

Between the 1788 Friends Meeting House and the Classic Revival bank and Post Office is an excellent collection of approximately 20 Victorian vernacular business establishments. These buildings were built using a wealth and variety of Victorian ornamentation within a 20 year span, from 1880-1900, when Plainfield was a resort and home for many wealthy industrial, financial, and professional leaders of New York's business community.

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The Jersey Central Railroad, an important link between New York and Philadelphia, had with Plainfield, a halfway mark and an important stop between those two major cities. The area around and adjacent to the Plainfield depots housed the merchants and businesses catering to travelers and the commuter community.

Later buildings, comfortably absorbed, exemplify more modern commercial architectural design, and affirm continuity between the past and the present as well as a desirable contrast to the existing street wall.

A street oriented neighborhood, the North Avenue Commercial Historic District stands as a kind of local legacy. The buildings contribute to an understanding of vernacular commercial architecture in New Jersey. Consciously cultivated, there is an environment that encourages shopping and strolling. The proposed North Avenue Commercial Historic District is a significant historic resource adding interest to the city and its society.

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HISTORY

The North Avenue Historic District in Plainfield, New Jersey developed as a cluster of business and service establishments following the arrival of the railroad in 1840. The advent of the railroad initiated significant changes in the economic development of Plainfield, stimulating area industry and providing easy access to markets.

On Wednesday, March 21, 1838, a notice of a railroad meeting was made in the local newspaper Union, inviting citizens to attend a meeting at "Jack Thorn's Long Room on Thursday evening next at early candle light" to discuss completing the railroad to Plainfield. The next edition of the Union reported that "the meeting was large, informative and respectable". It was unanimously resolved to proceed as quickly as possible with the work.

In 1839 the stage coach line to Elizabeth was replaced by rail travel. Only four of the 1200 inhabitants dared to brave the danger of that first steam train ride in 1840. Until the train linked directly 30 years later to New York City, the steamer "Red Jacket" connected at Elizabethport to complete the last twelve miles of the trip into Manhattan.

In spite of relaxing bridge games in the club car, the fatigue of daily commuting was considerable. The only respite was the morning ferry ride--upper deck preferred--across the Hudson. The bridge over Newark Bay was begun in 1863.

In 1869 the direct railroad line between Plainfield and New York was completed. Commuting became faster and easier. The eventual suburban character which later distinguished Plainfield as a prestige residence for wealthy New Yorkers had begun. The writer Van Wyck Brooks in his reminiscences defined Plainfield as a Wall Street suburb with one hundred millionaires living there.

John Taylor Johnson, president of Central Rail Road, lived in Plainfield and realized that if the city was to become a place of any importance, the tracks must be elevated. There was considerable opposition. By 1874 the tracks were raised and 13 grade crossings were eliminated. Few trains ran in those days and the schedule was irregular. A bell in the cupola of the station was rung to notify the citizens when the train arrived. The railroad station at that time was a frame building with a saloon in one section: "none too clean and a misery of golden oak benches and spittons." The train platform was plank, small and open. There were only two tracks for east and west bound. Trains ran on "strap rails" which were wooden rails with a metal strip on top. Five years later, there were eleven trains daily in each direction making scheduled stops. By 1900, 8,000,000 passengers moved annually from Philadelphia to New York. A single trip ticket was sixty cents. The annual ticket price was \$87 and was non-transferable.

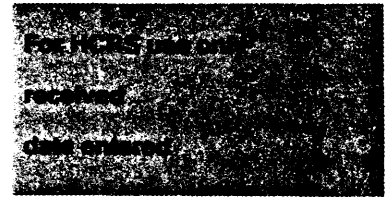
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Business flourished around the train depot, catering to travelers and businessmen. A self-contained neighborhood with hotels, bars, livery stables, barbers (with "first class artists in attendance"), plumbing supplies, and grocers were conveniently located within the District. Wand's City Directory of 1900 lists seven real estate agents, seven lawyers, nine insurance agents, and seven places where loans could be arranged. For the wayward husband, choice cut flowers could be purchased from Miss A. E. Lincoln, North Avenue, near the depot.

The majority of the properties in the District were built c. 1880. The typical commercial building of the late 1800's had wood replaced by more permanent cast iron, brick or stone. A thriving economy produced a building boom. Using pattern books, local architects and builders created richly ornamented and diverse facade designs. Industrial technology made available rolled glass for larger window openings and standardized parts.

The customary commercial building had a ground floor for a retail business with the second and third floor for office space or living quarters for the shop keeper or tenants. The first floor was open with a large expanse of glass for the display of wares, and divided into two sections with a recessed entry. Beneath the plate glass windows was the bottom base plate or wooden kick plate. A transom of clerestory glass capped with horizontal projecting molding ran across the first story line. Often the corners of the building were defined with ornamental vertical molding. Above the first floor, evenly spaced windows with an exuberance of details and decorative motifs make the second and third stories more interesting. Varying shapes, sizes, and colors from block to block provide for exuberant detailing.

The banking facilities of Plainfield are closely related to the development of the city. As the number of banks increased, business prospered, local industry expanded and more emphasis was placed on civic improvement. The two banks and the post office in the District, each solidly holding down the corner boundaries, exemplify a popular mode of architecture, the classic Greek Revival style, used in the design of public buildings. The temple types, carefully reproduced in ancient Greek forms, make imposing monuments to stability and commercial enterprise.

The railroad station was the 19th century gateway to the city. To impress the traveler with the wealth and economic stature of the city, the station's imposing architecture and plush interior reflected local pride and self image. Although tastefully altered to its present state in 1952, the west bound railroad station on North Avenue was once a grand Romanesque structure in the best

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tradition of Henry Hobson Richardson. Originally less grand but unchanged today, the east bound depot repeats the Richardsonian style with high arched windows and contrasting white sandstone quoins and string courses. At the turn of the century numerous hacks and rigs congregated in the brick roadway in front of the station.

As the railroad had replaced the horse and the canal barge by offering speed, more comfort and accessibility, the car and the airplane have contributed to the decline of rail passenger service. With this transition, business declined and moved away from North Avenue to the more traveled routes of the mid-20th century.

In the spirit of historic preservation, the "facade survivors" in the North Avenue Commercial Historic District offer a nostalgic glimpse of the past and a hope for a fresh vitality and new life to a key commercial area of the City of Plainfield.

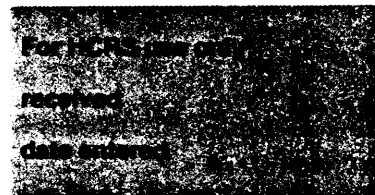
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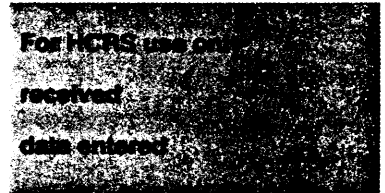
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Union County, New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description

A. Beginning at the East corner of B. 403, L.10 (along the CRRNJ R.O.W.) proceed west along said property to the South corner. Thence, proceed NW along the rear property line (excluding the alley) to the property line of B. 403, L. 7. Thence, proceed west along said property to the south corner, the west corner, and the north corner. B. Thence, proceed across Park Avenue to the west corner, the north corner, and the east corner of B. 102, L. 13. Thence, continue in the same direction to the rear property line of B. 102, L. 2A. Thence, proceed NE along said property line, projecting the line to the north corner of B. 102, L. 2 and continue along said property to the east corner (on North Avenue). C. Thence, proceed NE along the curb to the South property line of B. 104, L. 16. Thence, proceed to the rear property line and follow the lines of those properties facing North Avenue to Watchung Avenue (the north corner of B. 104, L. 8). Thence, cross Watchung to the south curb of B. 107, L. 4. Thence, proceed NW along said property to its west corner, NE to its north corner, and SE to its east corner. Thence proceed NE along B. 107, L. 3 to this property's north corner on Church Street and SE to the east corner on East Third St. Thence proceed SW along said property projecting a straight line across Watchung Avenue to the CRRNJ Right-of-Way. D. Thence, proceed SW along said R.O.W. 100 feet. Thence, proceed SE to the north corner of B. 280, L. 5. Thence, proceed SW in a straight line parallel to the R.O.W to the north corner of B.280, L.16. Thence, proceed NW across Depot Park to the northern R.O.W. of the CRRNJ. Thence, proceed SW along said R.O.W. to the beginning.

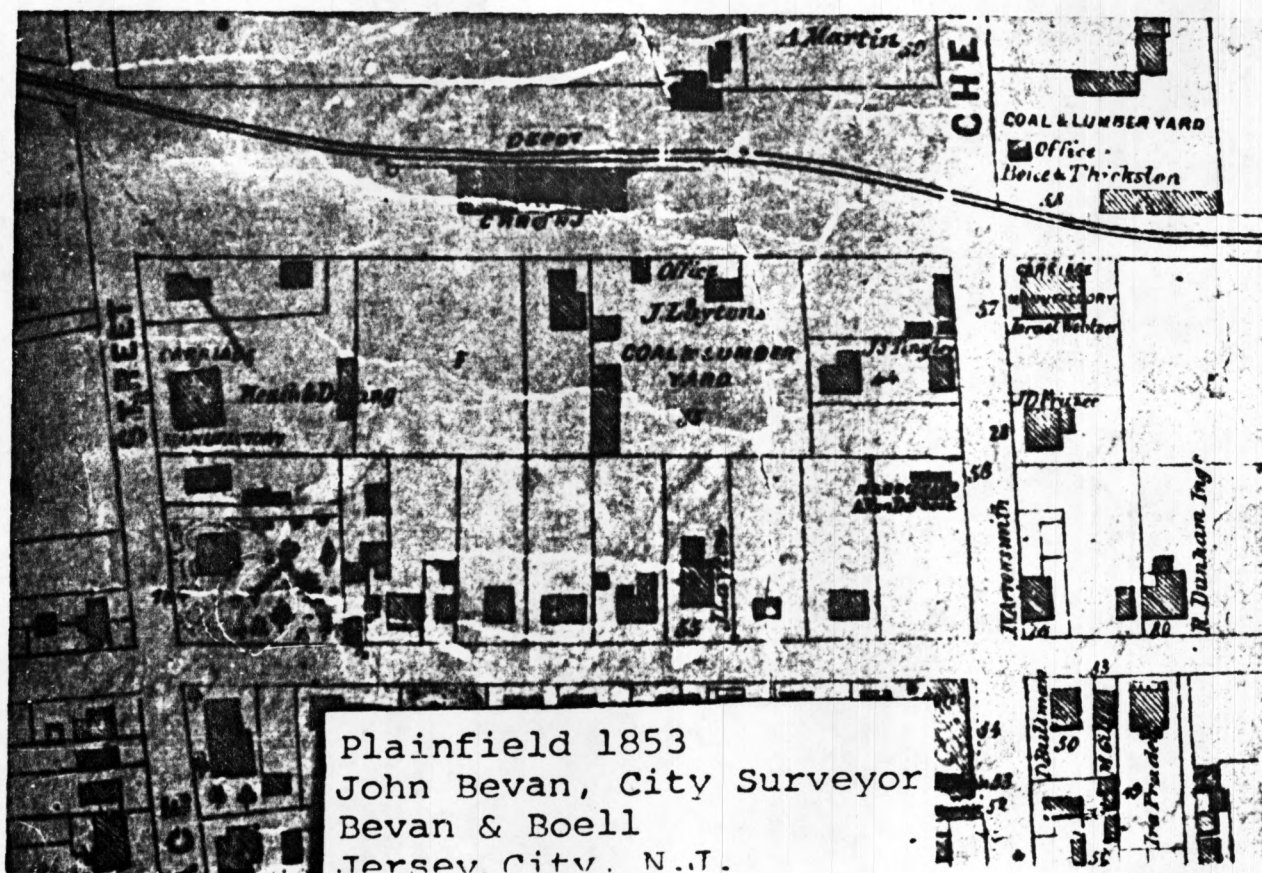
NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAPS

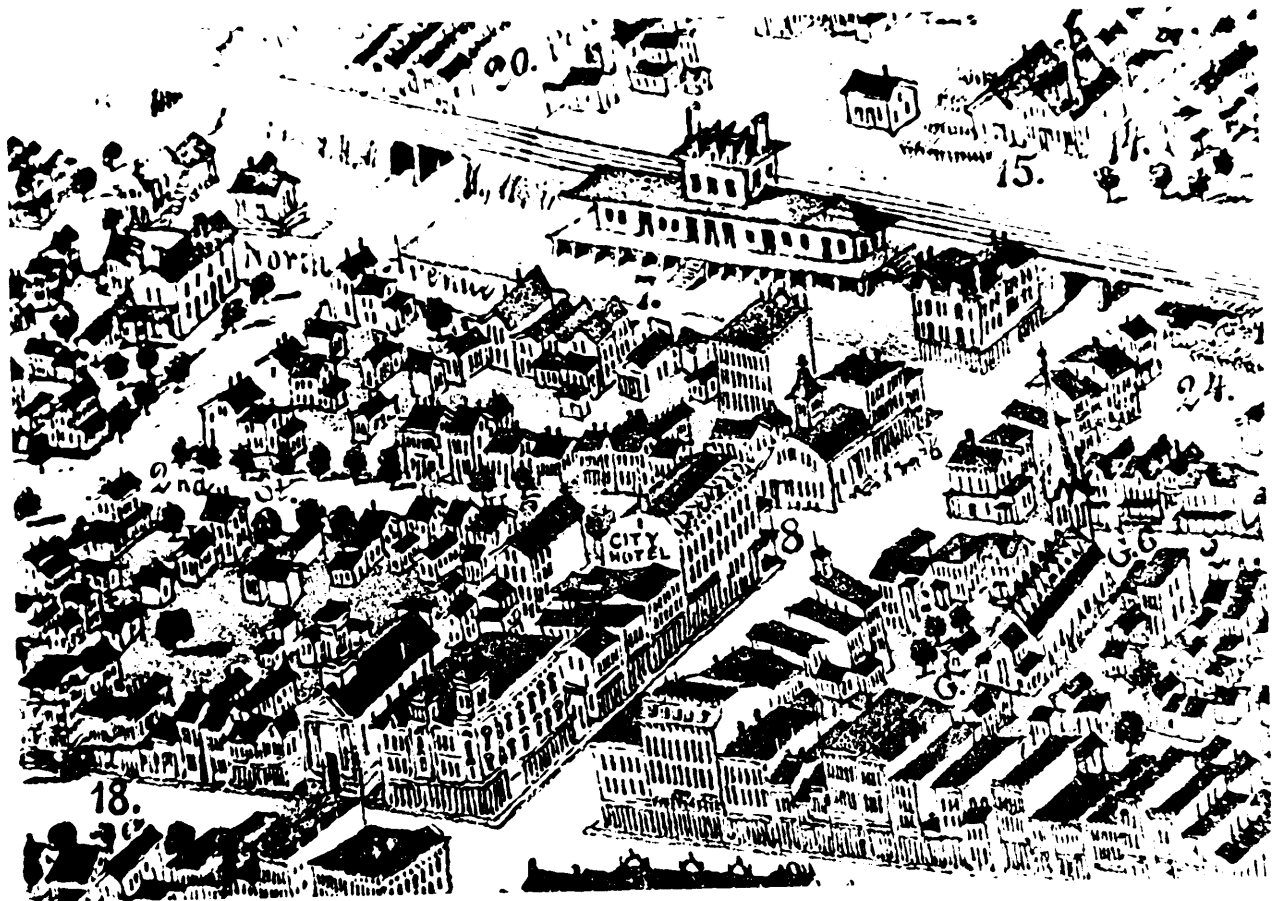
1. Original map by Captain Cornelius Vermule 1778
enlarged by G.S. Dufford 1934. - OMITTED
2. Plainfield 1853 by John Bevan, City Surveyor.
3. Detail of above map showing Peace (Watchung) and
Cherry (Park) Streets by railroad station.
4. 1874 drawing by O.H. Bailey showing North Avenue
by railroad station.
5. Center of Plainfield showing Madison, Park, Watchung
and North streets and avenues by railroad station.
F. A. Dunham, C.E., Plainfield, New Jersey.
6. Drawings of Center Plainfield by North Avenue, 1899.
Landis and Hughes, New York.

These maps are in Drake House, Plainfield, New Jersey.

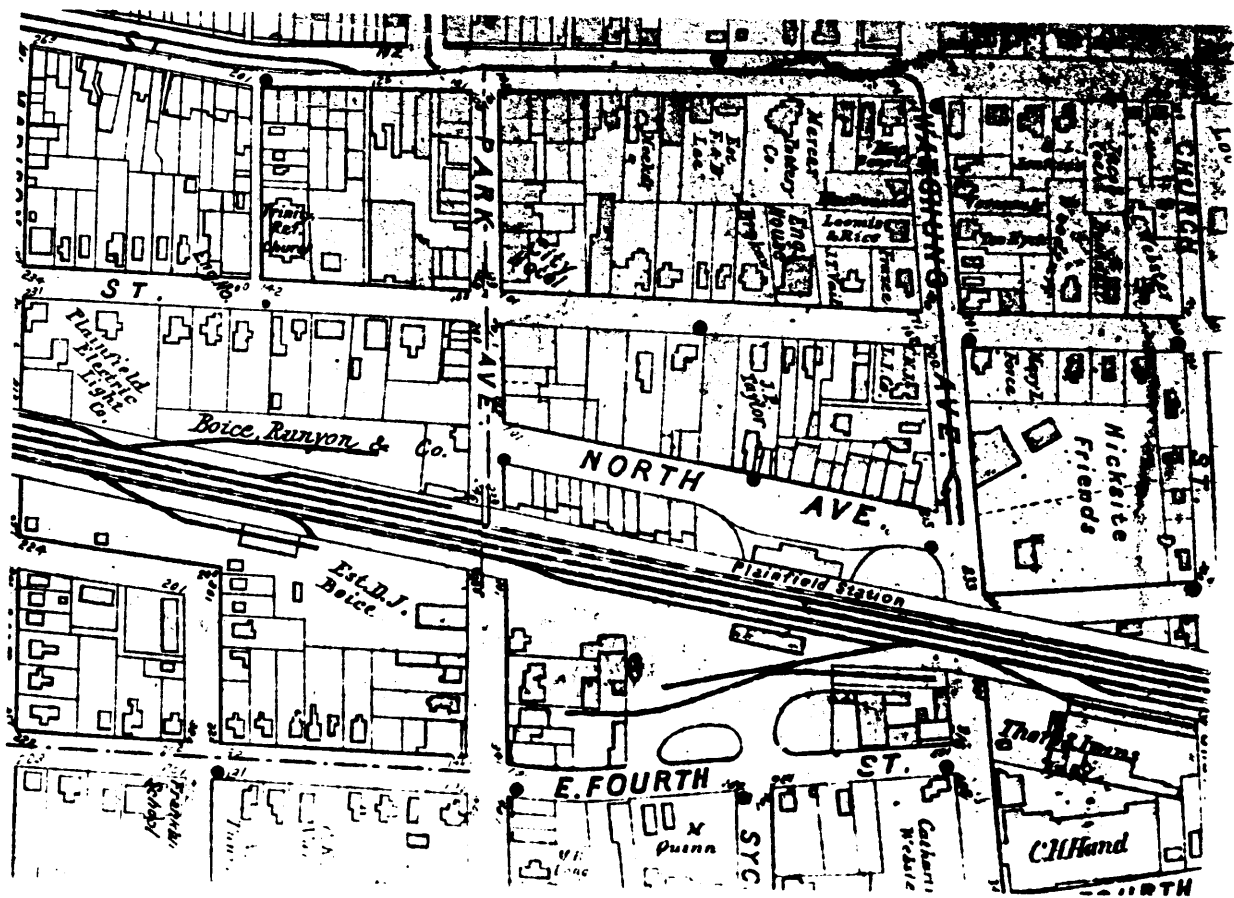




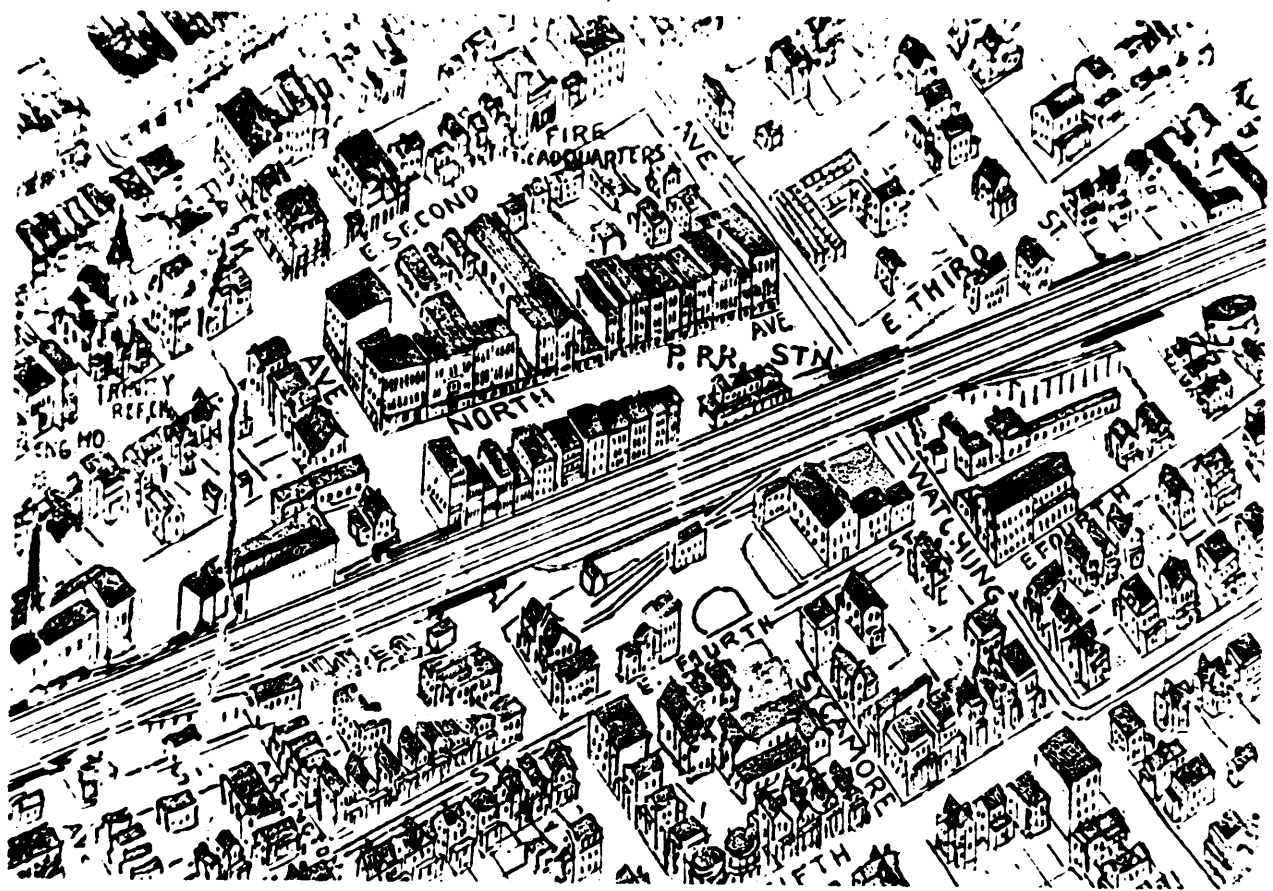
North Avenue Commercial Historic District
 City of Plainfield
 Union County, New Jersey



North Avenue Commercial Historic District
City of Plainfield
Union County, New Jersey



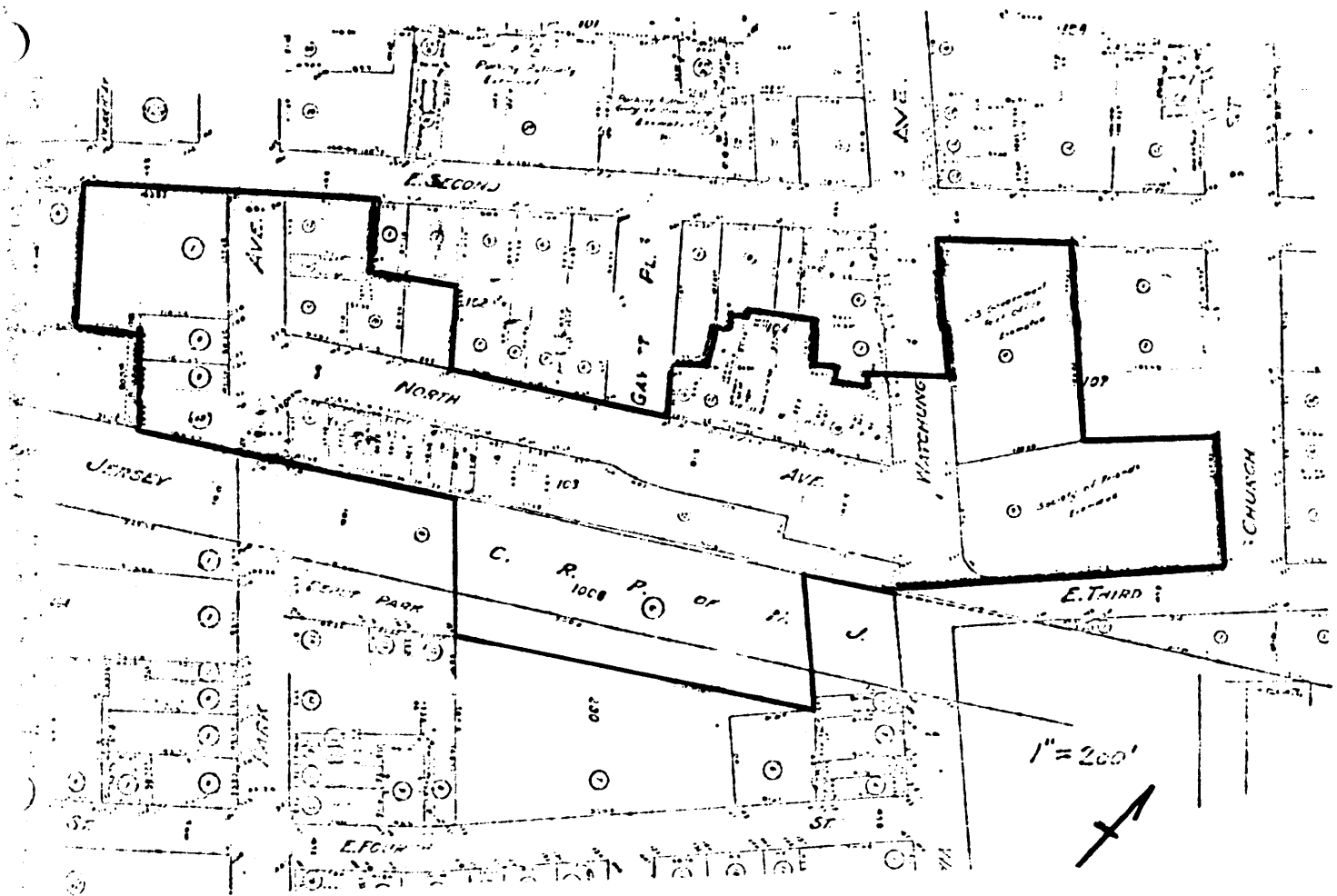
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North Avenue Commercial Historic District
City of Plainfield
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North Avenue Commercial Historic District
City of Plainfield
Union County, New Jersey

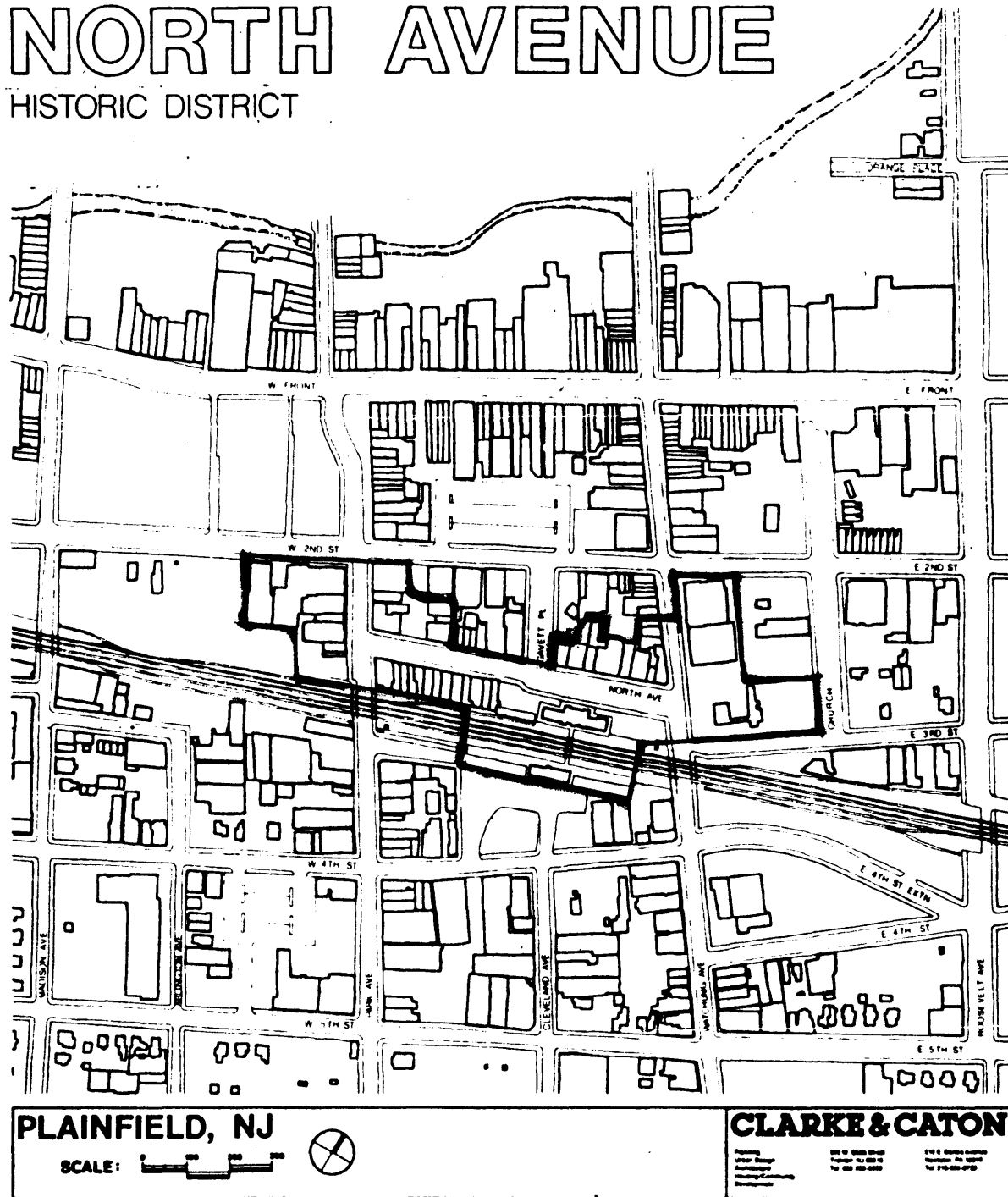


SCHEDULE A **NORTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

City of Plainfield
 Union County, New Jersey

NORTH AVENUE

HISTORIC DISTRICT



North Avenue Commercial Historic District
City of Plainfield
Union County, New Jersey

LOCATION 117 - 125 North Avenue

BLOCK 102 LOT 2A

PRESENT OWNER

AGE 1940

LOT SIZE 52 x 172

BUILDING SIZE 52 x 52

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 on second and third floors; modern plate glass on first

BAYS 10

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL common brick on second and third floors; hard burned brick on the first

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Sandstone window sills; window heads are both sandstone and diagonally patterned brick. Three cast terra cotta square rosettes on shallow engaged brick columns. Marble surround on doorway leading to #125.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1900 McVey's Hotel (later Asbury Hotel) was on this site.

PRESENT USE

Leahy's Flowers
Plainfield Music Shop





McVEY'S DINING ROOMS

(Near the Station)

NORTH AVENUE

117-125 North Avenue. From 1890's until the 1930's a hotel stood on this site: McVey's Hotel, then the Asbury, then the Carlton. The photographs of McVey's Hotel and dining rooms are from Ralph Hooker's Plainfield, New Jersey Illustrated, 1895.

LOCATION 107 - 115 North Avenue

BLOCK
102

LOT
10

PRESENT OWNER United National Bank

AGE

LOT SIZE 61 x 85,
irreg.

BUILDING SIZE

ROOF STYLE

TYPE OF SASH

BAYS

STORIES

CONDITION

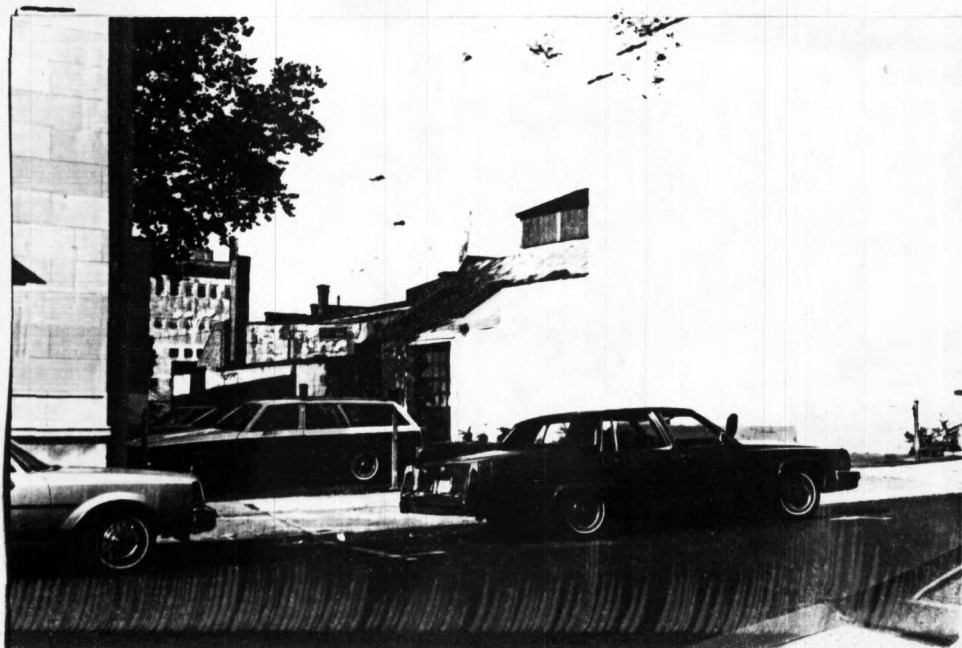
BUILDING MATERIAL

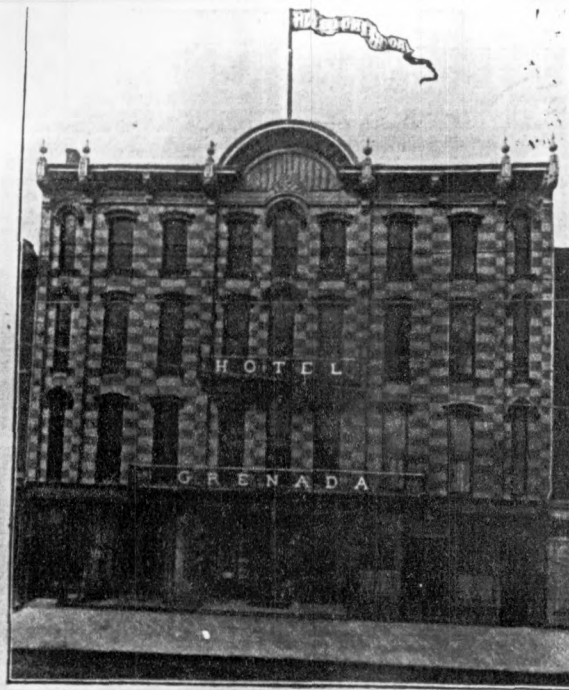
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Site of Hotel Kensington 1900-1910

PRESENT USE
vacant lot





HOTEL GRENADA

GEORGE AND WALLACE V. MILLER
PROPRIETORS

NORTH AVENUE
NEAR THE STATION

107-115 North Avenue. On this vacant lot once stood the Hotel Grenada, later named Kensington. Photograph from Ralph Hooker's Plainfield, New Jersey Illustrated, 1895.



Hotel Kensington

LOCATION 221 Park Avenue
and 101 -5 North Ave.

BLOCK 102 LOT 11

PRESENT OWNER United National Bank

AGE 1916

LOT SIZE 62 x 166

BUILDING SIZE 62 x 166

ROOF STYLE flat unadorned

TYPE OF SASH fixed with low horizontal projecting panel light

BAYS 5

STORIES 3

CONDITION excellent

BUILDING MATERIAL Limestone and marble features between sash

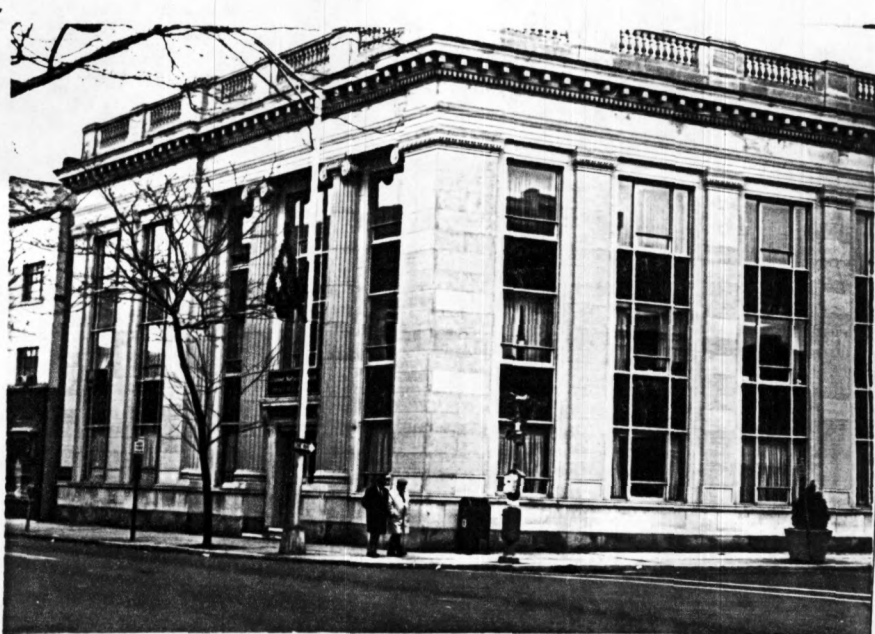
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Greek Revival architectural style, recessed entry. Interior has a large central banking area surrounded with small offices and large vault. Two floors of offices above large open area on first floor.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Originally owned by two other banks included in merger of banks

PRESENT USE

Trust Department of bank



LOCATION 211 Park Avenue

BLOCK
102

LOT
12

PRESENT OWNER Mr. and Mrs. Graubard

AGE 1895

LOT SIZE 70 x 190±

BUILDING SIZE 70 x 150

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH multi-light metal casement, plate glass

BAYS 2

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL brick and stucco

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE



LOCATION 201 - 209 Park Avenue

BLOCK 102 LOT 13

PRESENT OWNER Albert R. Walker

AGE 1886

LOT SIZE 65 x 95

BUILDING SIZE 65 x 80

ROOF STYLE flat built up

TYPE OF SASH 1/1

BAYS 8

STORIES 3

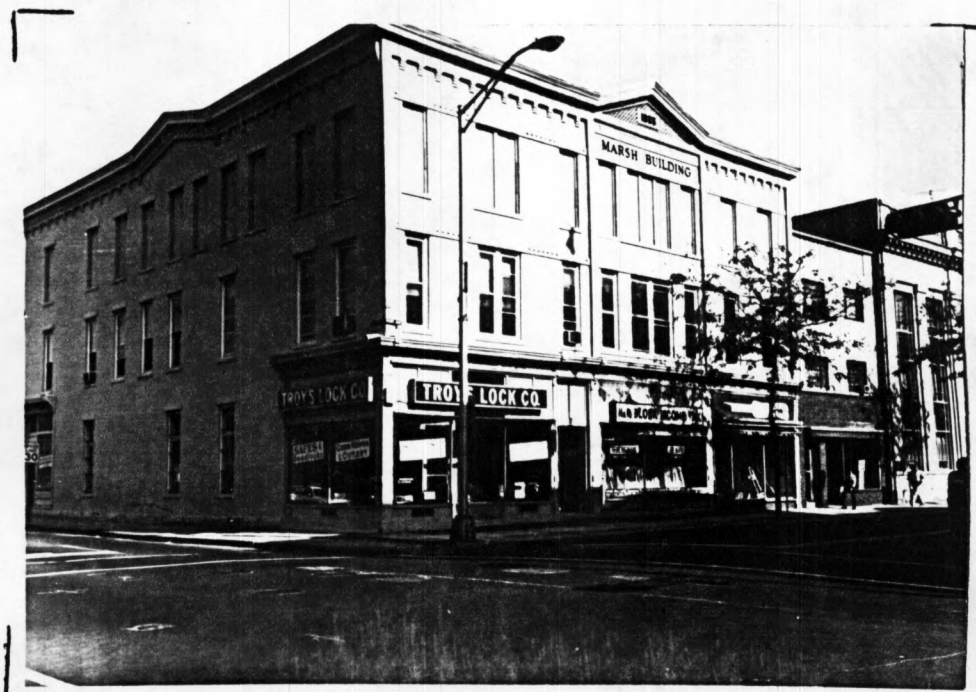
CONDITION very good

BUILDING MATERIAL common brick painted

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Restrained ornamentation using corbelled ornamental frieze, decorative cast terra cotta rope moulding and dentil moulding under roof line. Small projecting cornice wrapped around the corner. Decorative motif is repeated on the side as well as the front of the building. False gable peak in the center with date and name "Marsh 1886". Rosettes at the second and third floor string course corners. Incised cast iron Eastlake columns at first floor entrance to second floor.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE
Troy Lock Co.



LOCATION 100 - 106 North Avenue

BLOCK 103 LOT 1

PRESENT OWNER Constitution Realty, c/o Hetfield

AGE 1890 LOT SIZE approx. 42 x 69 BUILDING SIZE approx. 40 x 66

ROOF STYLE flat pitch with wide broken irregular cornice. Original cornice ornamentation boxed in by aluminum

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung on second and third floor; modern store windows, colonial in style, on first.

BAYS 6 on North Ave. STORIES 3 CONDITION good
7 on Park Ave.

BUILDING MATERIAL brick, now painted

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Projecting segmental window heads with saw tooth pattern; larger double windows with ornamental scrolled half round arch, supported with small carved leaf shaped bracket, rosette center. Projecting sills with same small leaf supports. Old street names carved in corner at first window sill.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS Builder was George W. Rockefeller, mayor of Plainfield in 1885-86 and 1899-1900. In 1893, building was used as Plainfield Boys Club; in 1900, top floor meeting room was known as Central Hall.

PRESENT USE

Pipe shop, barber shop etc.
Hetfield & Hetfield,
law offices





100-106 Park Ave. Window detail.

Shallow arches alternate with full half round arches over windows, with exuberant trim. The presence of two of the more ornate half round arch windows on North Avenue may indicate that this was the main side of the building.

LOCATION 108 - 110 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 2

PRESENT OWNER Constitution Realty c/o George Hetfield

AGE 1923 LOT SIZE 17 x 69 BUILDING SIZE 17 x 68

ROOF STYLE flat, built up

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung with fixed transom on second floor;
modern colonial style store windows on first

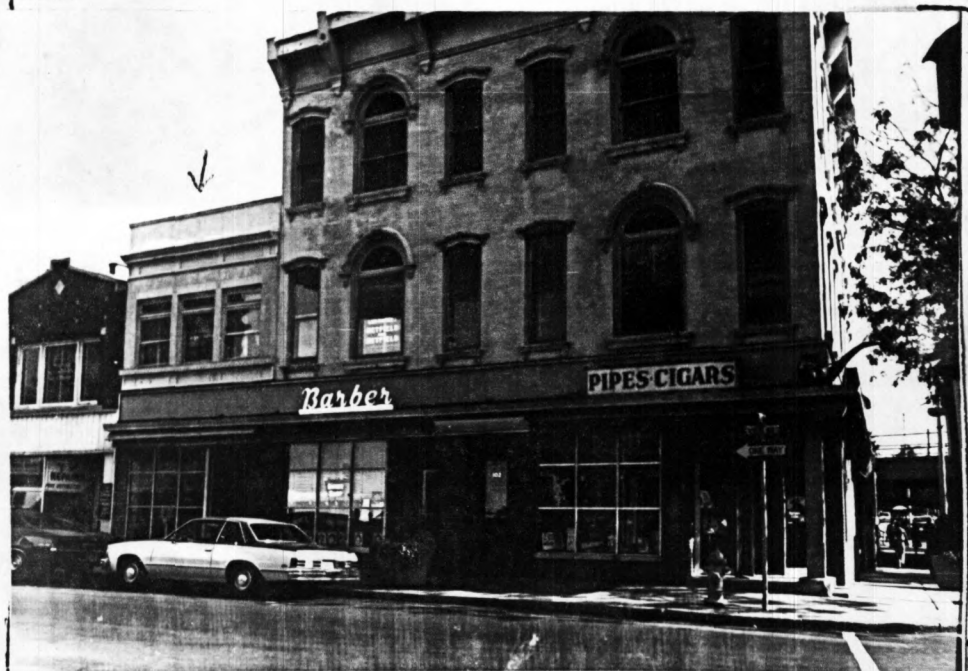
BAYS 3 STORIES 2 CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL stucco over brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST scroll horizontal feature strip under
second story windows; simple projecting cornice
molding at roof line. Recessed flat panels
add simple ornament.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 this was the site of M.C. Dobbins,
cigar maker; in 1933, Plainfield Auto Parts Co.

PRESENT USE
Griffin Insurance
Hetfield law offices



LOCATION 112 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 3

PRESENT OWNER Albert & Ruth Desnoyers

AGE 1920

LOT SIZE 17 x 69

BUILDING SIZE 17 x 67

ROOF STYLE flat with false gable front; peak broken with square ornamental head. Roof outlined in cast concrete with scroll at two front corners.

TYPE OF SASH

Three single pane windows on second floor; commercial plate glass on first floor.

BAYS 3

STORIES 2

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL rough cut brick, vertical aluminum siding

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Ornamental contrasting brick work interspersed with cast concrete blocks and diamond in gable peak; contrasting brick quoins.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1900, site of D. W. Littell, Plumbing and Heating; in 1933, Philip Moskovitz, Lawyer.

PRESENT USE

Moskowitz law offices
television repair



LOCATION 114 - 116 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 4

PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Desnoyers, Watchung NJ

AGE 1925 LOT SIZE 22 x 69 BUILDING SIZE 22 x 68

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH modern commercial plate glass

BAYS 1 STORIES 1 CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL vertical aluminum siding

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST modern style

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1885, home of a barber shop; in 1900,
site of Herman Keller, cigar manufacturer.

PRESENT USE
vacant



LOCATION 118 - 120 North Avenue

BLOCK 103 LOT 5

PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Streeton, Warren NJ

AGE 1923 LOT SIZE 18 x 68 BUILDING SIZE 18 x 67

ROOF STYLE low flat pitch with false front broken peak gable

TYPE OF SASH picture window with two operating jalousie windows
on second floor; commercial plate glass on first

BAYS 3 STORIES 2 CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL stucco over brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST "Wm. A. Molter & Son" embossed over
entrance flanked with scroll panels, glazed
square terra cotta tiles window emphasis.
Cast cement projecting cornices supported by
simple shallow flat brackets. Recessed broken
flat rectangular panels below.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1900 site of Antonio
Lusardi, Fruits and Vege-
tables. In 1885 Molter Real
Estate, North Avenue, was
advertising in the city
directory.

PRESENT USE

Molter Real Estate



LOCATION 122-124 North Avenue

BLOCK 103 LOT 6

PRESENT OWNER Ken and Howard Troy, Plainfield NJ

AGE 1885

LOT SIZE 20 x 68

BUILDING SIZE 20 x 67

ROOF STYLE low flat pitch with projecting false arch gable

TYPE OF SASH

BAYS 3

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL brick

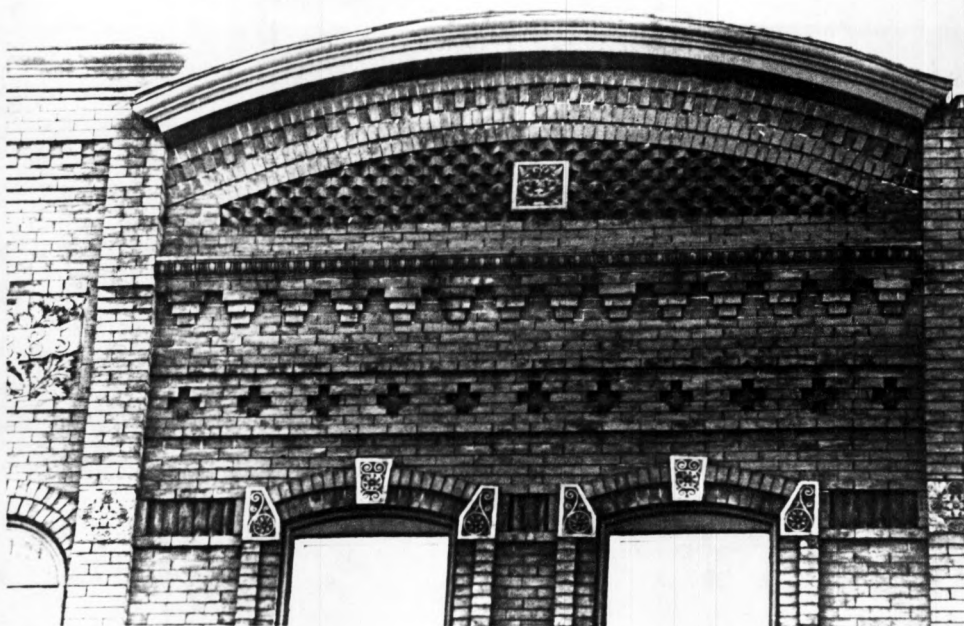
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST A multitude of busy, interesting and ornate brick patterns in building facade, accented with ornamental terra cotta reliefs. Limestone string courses. Water table supported scroll brackets. One bay has accented stair hall ending in short tower with square hipped roof. Dated 1885. Cast iron corner posts with Eastlake design. Appropriate paint color selection.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1900, site of Eureka Meat Market; in 1933, New Jersey Auto Equipment.

PRESENT USE
vacant





122-24 North Avenue

Above. False arch gable

Below. Cast iron corner post ornament



LOCATION 126 - 128 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 7

PRESENT OWNER Frank B. Estate c/o F. J. Harty

AGE 1885 LOT SIZE 20 x 68 BUILDING SIZE 20 x 67

ROOF STYLE flat with projecting built up cornice supported by
scroll brackets

TYPE OF SASH second floor 1/1 sash; third floor 2 over 1.

BAYS 3 STORIES 3 CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL false yellow brick recently applied over
original brick

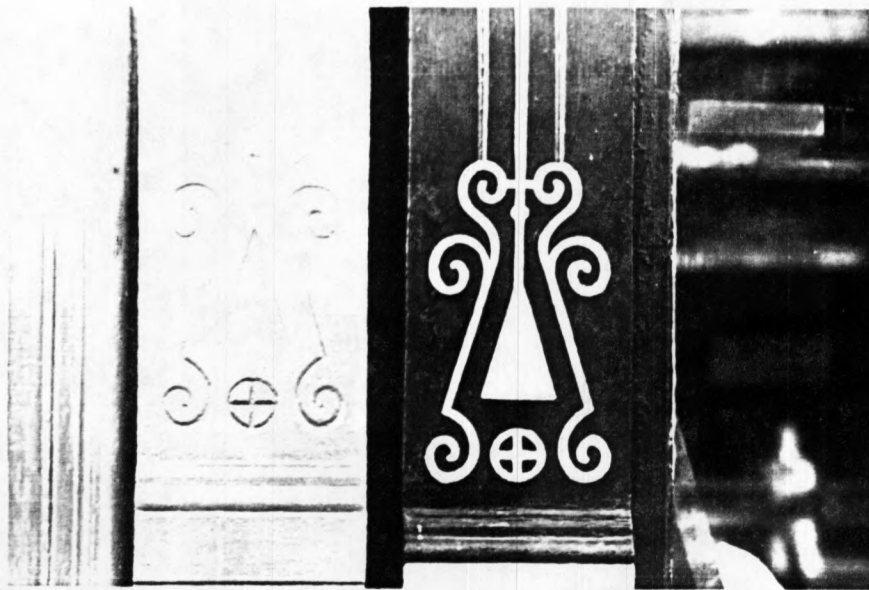
ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST modillions in frieze with raised panel
decoration. Corner posts cast iron with
Eastlake design

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1900, site of
Joseph Carbone, Groceries,
Fruits and Vegetables.

PRESENT USE
vacant





126-128 North Avenue. Detail of
ornament in cast iron corner posts.

LOCATION 130 - 132 North Avenue

BLOCK 103
LOT 8

PRESENT OWNER Popular Real Estate

AGE 1885

LOT SIZE 25 x 68

BUILDING SIZE 25 x 67

ROOF STYLE flat with built up cornice; ball-like finials in each front corner on large scroll brackets

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 4

STORIES 4

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL common red brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Third floor window treatment has festoons with alternating raised bricks and limestone keystones. Second floor windows have projecting arch with keystone

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1895, site of Addis & Son Plumbing and Charles Lister, Bicycles

PRESENT USE

Popular Real Estate
apartments





Established 1878

Telephone: 29-B

FULLER &

WARREN CO.'S

CELEBRATED

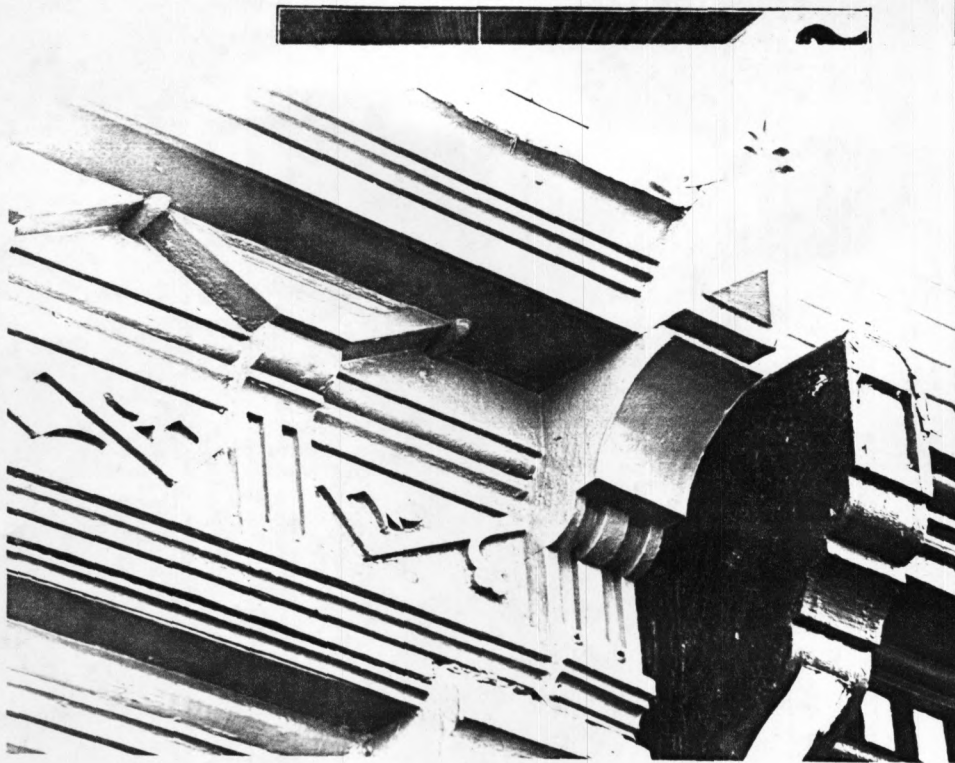
RANGES

ON SALE

ADDIS & SON

PLUMBING AND HOT WATER HEATING

132 North Avenue



130-32 North Avenue.

Top. Picture of Addis & Son at
this site from Ralph Hooker's
Plainfield, New Jersey Illustrated,
1895.

Bottom. Detail of carved wooden
trim over first floor show window.

LOCATION 134 - 136 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 9

PRESENT OWNER Popular Real Estate

AGE 1885

LOT SIZE 25 x 68

BUILDING SIZE 25 x 67

ROOF STYLE flat with projecting bracketed cornice which has
modillions and decorative raised panels

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 4

STORIES 4

CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Straight flat sandstone lintels and sills.
Recessed common red brick squares with woven
pattern at second and third floor levels;
projecting metal water table supported by
brackets with repeat modillion motif. Angled
brick string courses.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

In 1905, site of
Monarch Printing Co.

PRESENT USE vacant



LOCATION 138-44 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 10

PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Espinosa, Piscataway, NJ

AGE 1885

LOT SIZE 49 x 68

BUILDING SIZE 49 x 60

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH 1/1

BAYS 6

STORIES 3

CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL hard red brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Quoin type treatment window surrounds constructed of alternately projecting white limestone blocks with exaggerated keystones. Unusually heavy ornamental cornice supported by large elongated brackets. Massive brackets support ornamental pendant drops. Extravagant Eastlake design in frieze. On a smaller scale, pendant drop motif repeated along first floor water table; raised panel designs under water table. Cast iron columns with foliated capitals.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900, site had Confectioner William Warnock, Florist Charles Stanley, Butcher Smalley Bros., and Contractor and Stone Dealer Smalley.

PRESENT USE
vacant



146-52 North Avenue

Top. Detail of cornice.

Bottom. Detail of wooden frieze
above show windows.



LOCATION 146 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
103 11

PRESENT OWNER Mr. and Mrs. Oritz, Plainfield

AGE 1895

LOT SIZE 37 x 68

BUILDING SIZE 37 x 67

ROOF STYLE flat with two existing peaks at front roof line

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 replaced

BAYS 6

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL red common brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST White limestone lintels and sills.
Applied oval cut out medallion ornamentation
in frieze on front and side of building;
repeated across first floor entrance. Project-
ing water table has three tiny gable peaks.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 this site had Caterer M. E. Stephenson
and the U. S. Express Co.

PRESENT USE
first floor - vacant
second floor - apartments





North Avenue, south side buildings.

This rear view shows a generous use of ornamental detail such as contrasting sills and lintels, patterned brackets and pediments often restricted to the front of the building.

LOCATION 154 - 214 North Avenue
(westbound train station)

BLOCK LOT
103 12

PRESENT OWNER Conrail, Philadelphia PA

AGE 1905 LOT SIZE 400 x 68 BUILDING SIZE 122 x 44'
irreg.

ROOF STYLE Hipped and flat section front center; false slate
and copper edges

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 (closed up)

BAYS 4 + 9 (2 sections) STORIES CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL plaster and stone

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Altered Victorian architectural style;
ornamental wood long overhangs; altered extensively. Cast Iron
metal arched supports to freestanding waiting area shelter.
Upper two stories removed in 1952.

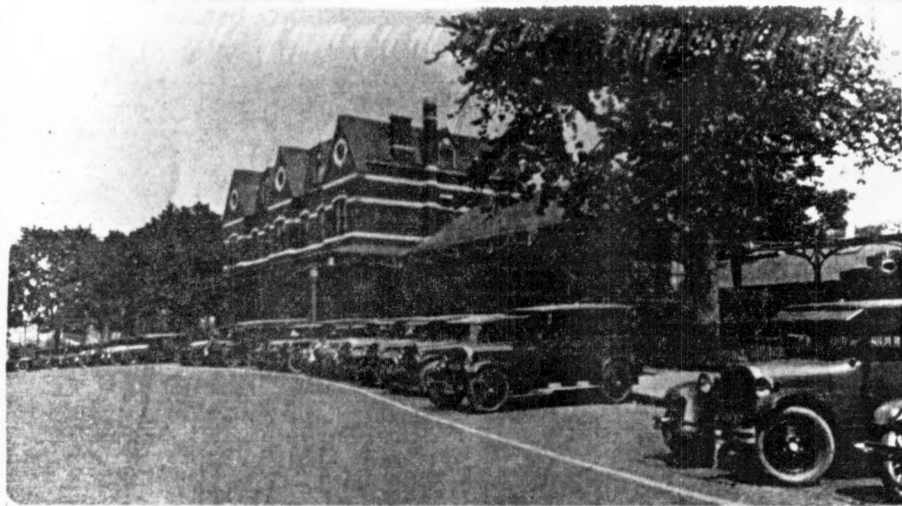
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS Site of original Plainfield railroad station.
A 1905 business directory refers to Titus H. Laury as "builder
of the new Central Railroad of New Jersey North Avenue Station
and tunnel."

PRESENT USE
empty

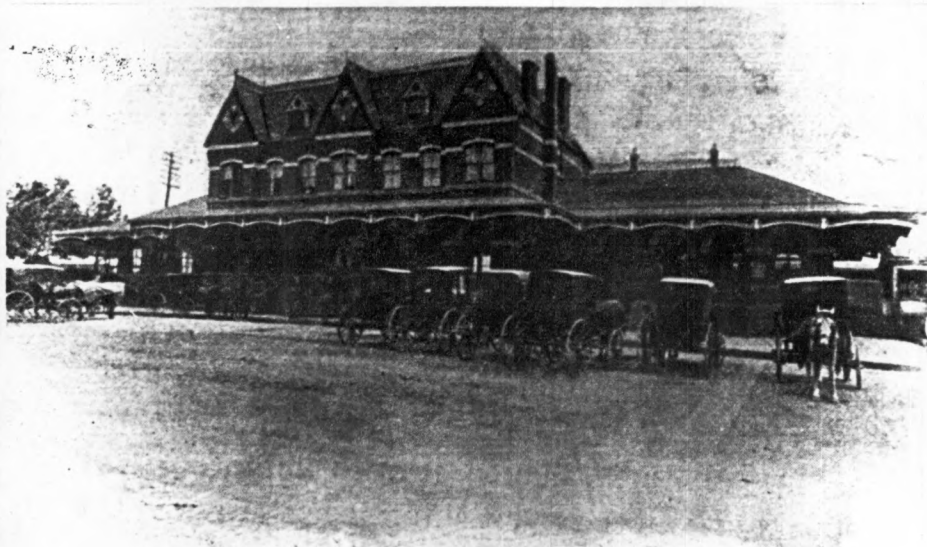




Westbound train station, Plainfield,
south side from Depot Park.



PLAINFIELD RAILROAD STATION—WEST BOUND



NORTH AVENUE STATION

Westbound train station, Plainfield.
Above. In 1926.
Below. In 1895.

LOCATION 218 Watchung Avenue

BLOCK LOT
104 8

PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Espinosa, Piscataway NJ

AGE 1880

LOT SIZE 62 x 79

BUILDING SIZE 62 x 79

ROOF STYLE

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 4

STORIES 3

CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL red brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Projecting tin cornice with dentil molding supported by four brackets. Flat limestone lintels and string courses. Angled vertical brick design between second and third floor.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

1933 this site had
Law Office Building,
Enterprise Business Service

PRESENT USE
vacant



211-215 North Avenue and
LOCATION 216 Watchung Avenue

BLOCK LOT
104 8

PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Espinosa, Piscataway NJ

AGE 1880

LOT SIZE 62 x 79

BUILDING SIZE 62 x 79

ROOF STYLE False sloping, slate covered; false chimney at either end.

TYPE OF SASH 9/9 replacing earlier 1/1; commercial plate glass

BAYS 7

STORIES 3

CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL Scored plaster over original brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Scored half-round ornamentation centered with multi-colored glazed terra cotta tile above windows on second floor. False balconies a more recent addition. Original heavy modillion course continues at first floor level around the corner from 211 North Avenue (corner of Watchung).

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE
vacant



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NORTH AVENUE FROM WATCHUNG AVENUE

sent neat brick church was dedicated in bishop Hughes, of New York, to which Sec
embership, 90. Pastors: Reverends Oerter, the State belonged. Rev. James M. D.

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corner North Ave
at Watchung Ave



LOCATION 207 - 209 North Avenue

BLOCK 104 LOT 9

PRESENT OWNER Malachuk, Mendham NJ

AGE 1895

LOT SIZE 19 x 70 irreg BUILDING SIZE 19 x 60

ROOF STYLE flat with simple terra cotta cornice and zig zag ornamentation; corbelled corner supports

TYPE OF SASH

BAYS 3

STORIES 2

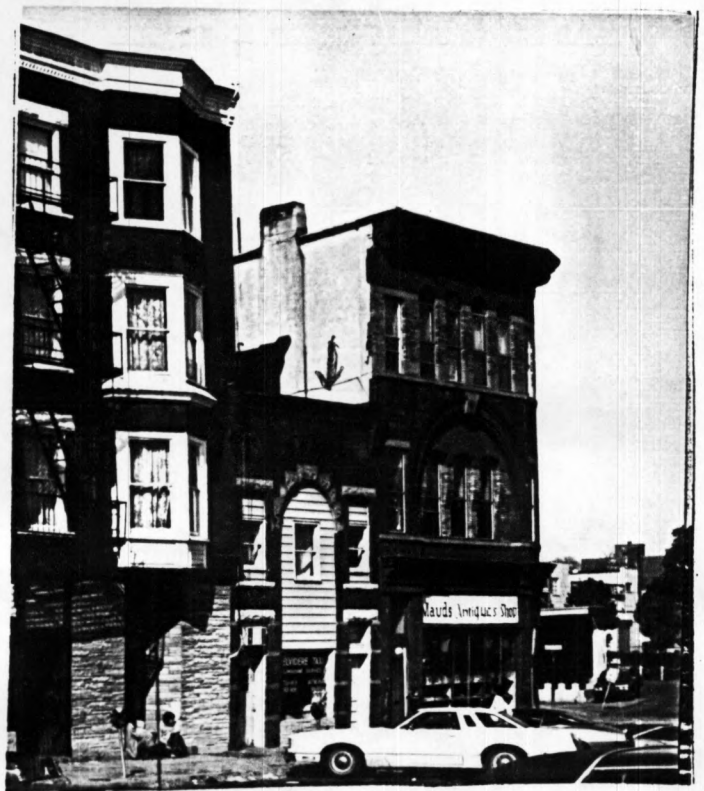
CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Two story arch with rough cut limestone outline. Straight rough cut limestone window heads. Four narrow sandstone string courses on first floor level

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site had Plainfield Water Supply Co. and LaRue and Cuming Real Estate

PRESENT USE
Belvidere Taxi Co.



207 - 209 North Avenue



corner North Ave
at Watchung Ave

LOCATION 197 - 205 North Avenue

BLOCK 104 LOT 10

PRESENT OWNER Conrail

AGE 1895

LOT SIZE 38 x 71

BUILDING SIZE 38 x 68

ROOF STYLE flat, built up with projecting ornamental broken cornice;
zig zag decoration at bottom of fascia.

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 3

STORIES 4

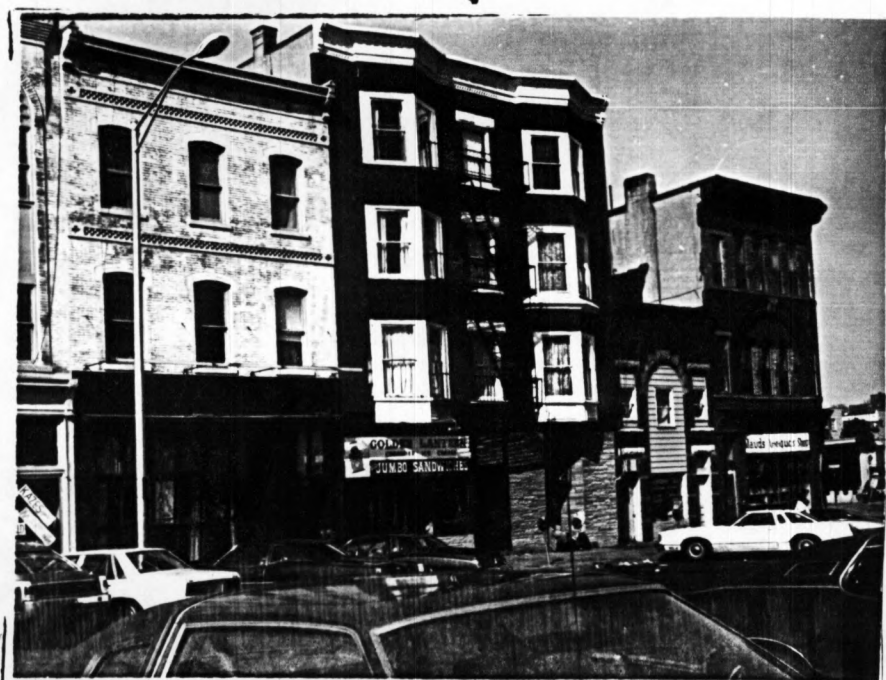
CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL brick; bays now covered with false composition
brick; first floor Permastone.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Triangular projecting bays, original
incised cast iron columns at street level

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site had Steamship and insurance
agent Wm. Thickstun; Real Estate John Emmons;
Plumber Frederick Masker; Nurses Susan Ball
and Clarinda Walrod

PRESENT USE
Golden Lantern Ice Cream
apartments



LOCATION 193 - 195 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
104 11

PRESENT OWNER Malachuk, Mendham NJ

AGE 1917

LOT SIZE 25 x 86

BUILDING SIZE 25 x 70

ROOF STYLE flat, built up with projecting metal cornice featuring
dentil molding and heavy scroll bracket corner
supports

TYPE OF SASH

BAYS 3

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

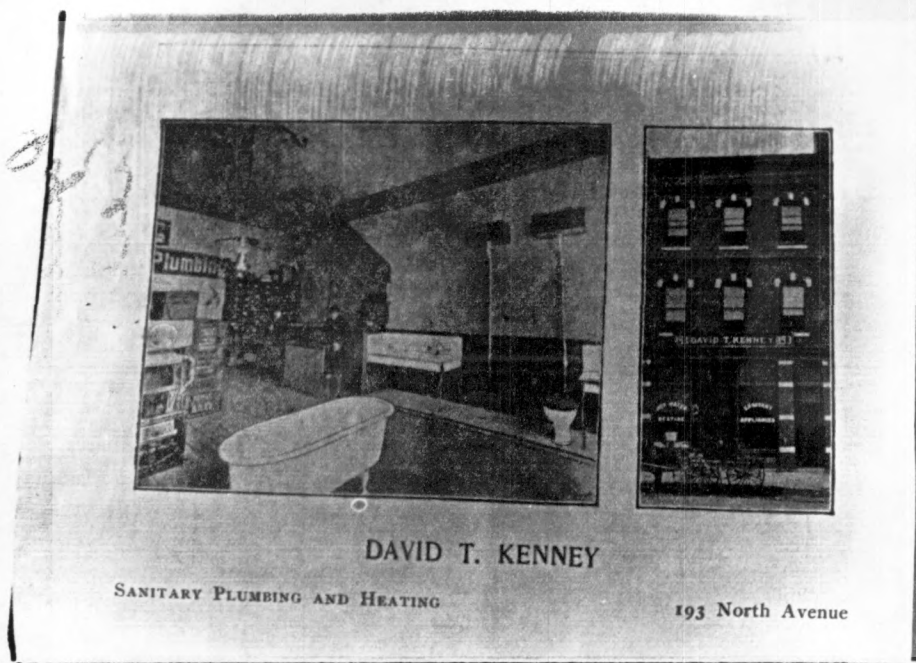
BUILDING MATERIAL painted brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Cast terra cotta foliate tile squares.
Three course angled brick work creating zig zag
pattern segmental arch window heads with flat
limestone keystone and "dog ears".

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site had Plumber Den J. Galbraith;
in 1920 Plainfield Daily Record newspaper

PRESENT USE
Consolidated Service
Center
apartments





193-95 North Avenue

Top. Kenney Plumbing Shop at
this site illustrated in Ralph
Hooker's Plainfield, New Jersey
Illustrated, 1895.

Bottom. Detail of brick and
terra cotta trim.

LOCATION 187-91 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
104 12

PRESENT OWNER Malachuk, Mendham NJ

AGE 1886

LOT SIZE 38 x 82

BUILDING SIZE 38 x 70

ROOF STYLE flat, built up

TYPE OF SASH 2/1 and 1/1

BAYS 3

STORIES 3

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL painted brick and wood Permastone added to first floor

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Unusual two wide shallow projecting bays accented with corbelled fascia. Bays are outlined in brick arch with triple windows. Ornamental strap work. 1886 date plate. First floor facade added 1940± with metal canopy suspended from lions' heads. Marble entry with pillars.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site has George Tobin, Plumbing, Sheet Iron & Tin; Russell Howell Grocer

PRESENT USE

187 - New Creation
Arts Center

191 - vacant



HEATING AND VENTILATING



SANITARY PLUMBING



187-91 North Avenue.

Top. Photo of George Tobin, Plumber
from Ralph Hooker's Plainfield,
New Jersey Illustrated, 1895.

Bottom. Detail of marquee added
1940±.

177-
LOCATION 185 North Avenue

BLOCK LOT
104 13-14

PRESENT OWNER Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Malachuk

AGE LOT SIZE 45 x 130 BUILDING SIZE 45 x 60
irreg.

ROOF STYLE flat built up

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 3 STORIES 3 CONDITION good

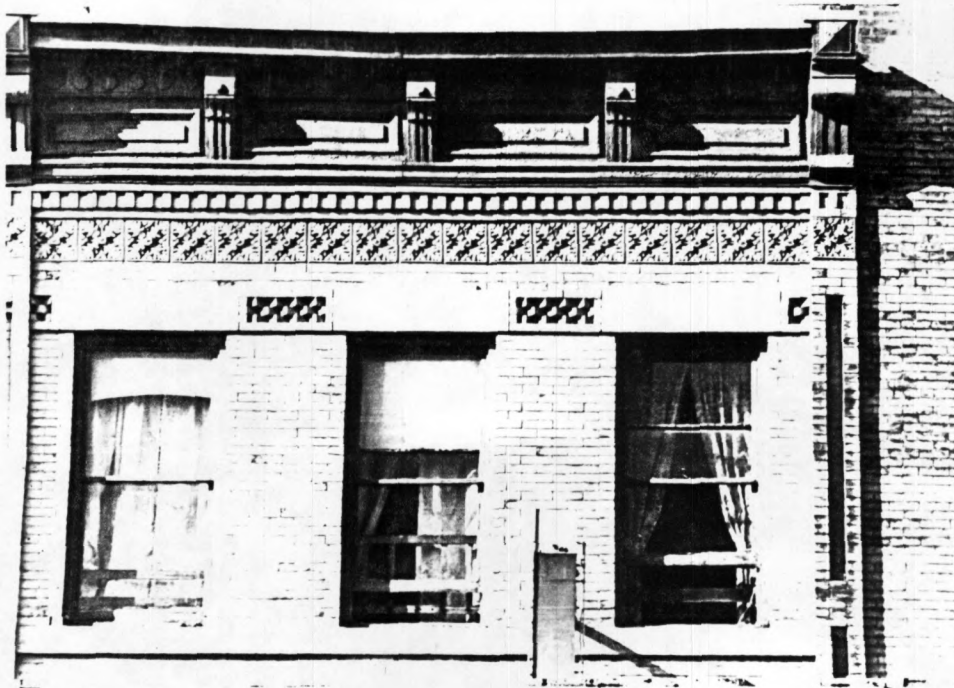
BUILDING MATERIAL painted brick and modern Permastone on first floor

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Projecting ornamental cornice with heavy support brackets. Dentil molding and square terra cotta leaf pattern tiles. Flat limestone window heads and string course. Center windows on second and third floors have arched limestone window heads. Angular brick creates zig zag pattern. Projecting corner posts have vertical hollow recesses.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site had Corporation Legal Manual Co., Honeyman's Private Tours, Mountain Park Land Co., and Plumber Chas. Raybert

PRESENT USE
Bonded Jeweler
apartments





Above. #185 North Avenue. Detail of ornamental cornice.

Below. #177 North Avenue. Segmental arch window heads with rough cut sandstone keystone and "dog ears".



LOCATION 171 - 175 North Avenue

BLOCK 104 LOT 15

PRESENT OWNER Mascaro

AGE 1890

LOT SIZE 35 x 124

BUILDING SIZE 35 x 65

ROOF STYLE flat, built up

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 double hung

BAYS 3

STORIES 4

CONDITION endangered

BUILDING MATERIAL brick with wooden trim

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Extravagantly ornamental facade using patterned brick terra cotta reliefs, and rough cut limestone window heads and string courses. Centered in the third floor, a half round Richardsonian arch with corbelled supports. Projecting three story bay with crossed peak. Two four light bay windows. Original leaded stained glass fixed lights remain above double hung sash. Heavy door frame has sunburst pattern using brick and pitted sandstone. Decorative wooden sunburst form under first floor projecting bay. Fluted cast iron first floor corner posts. "CHOTOLA" name in terra cotta casting in gable peak. Stone half figures flank doorway.

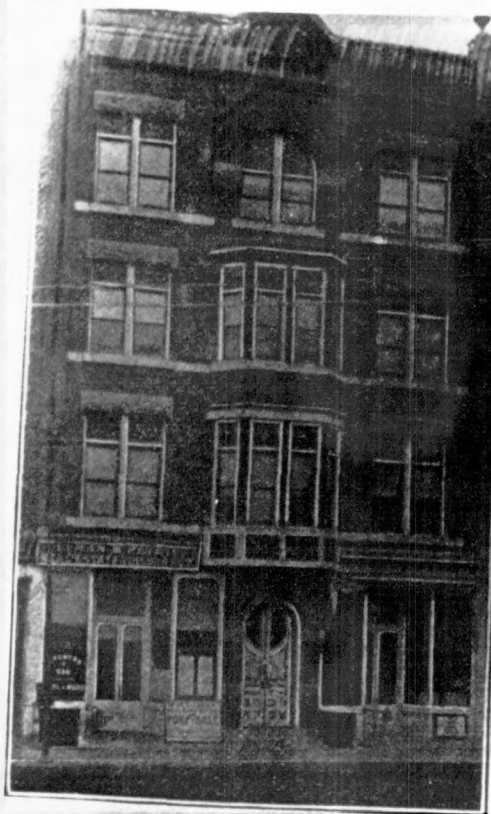
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS 1900 had Wm. and J.P. Abbott Real Estate, S.D. Drake Real Estate, Middlesex Land Co., Wm. B. Harsel Photo Supplies, John Lloyd Carpenter.

PRESENT USE

Mascaro Furniture
Quality Stamps



BUILDING OF E. E. WRIGHT



CHOTOLA BUILDING

JOHN F. McINTYRE

REAL ESTATE

OFFICE THE DEPT.

171-75 North Avenue.
Picture of Chotola Building
from Ralph Hooker's Plainfield,
New Jersey Illustrated, 1895.





171-175 North Avenue.

Detail of Chotola Building
doorway with carytid-like figures.



LOCATION: 169 North Ave.

BLOCK
104

LOT
16

PRESENT OWNER: Mr. & Mrs. Wright, Plainfield NJ

AGE: 1895 LOT SIZE 25.5 x 50.5 BUILDING SIZE 25.5 x 44

ROOF STYLE: flat, built up

TYPE OF SASH: 1/1 remain on the third floor

BAYS: 4

STORIES: 3

CONDITION: burned

BUILDING MATERIAL: Hard burned common brick originally; at first floor front facade, hard burned common red brick replacement.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST: ornate facia with ornamental terra cotta rosettes, dentil mounding, scroll brackets with rope trim and foliated square tiles. Heavy decorative corner brackets with ball finials. Angled terra cotta and brick create zig zag pattern.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS In 1900 site had Tailor Geo. B. Doty, Real Estate Elston French, Real Estate & Insurance Edw. C. Mulford

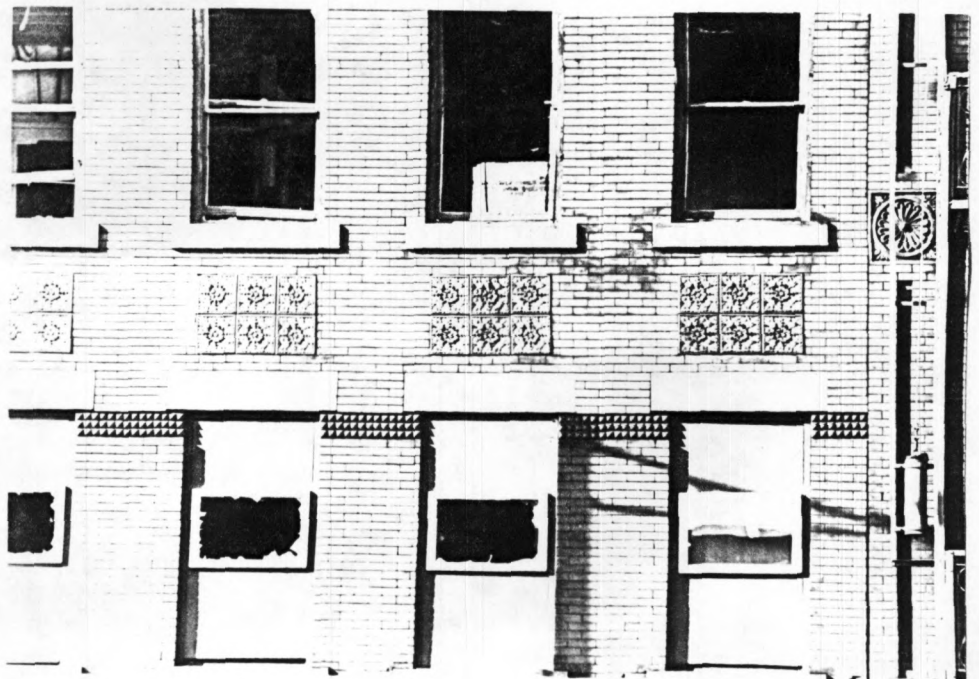
PRESENT USE:

Badly burned and vacant.





169 North Avenue. Detail



LOCATION 200 - 224 Park Avenue

BLOCK 403 LOT 7

PRESENT OWNER United National Bank

AGE 1905, 1926 LOT SIZE 137.5 x 164 BUILDING SIZE 70 x 130

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH single light

BAYS 6 columns STORIES 2½ CONDITION excellent

BUILDING MATERIAL granite and cut sandstone

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

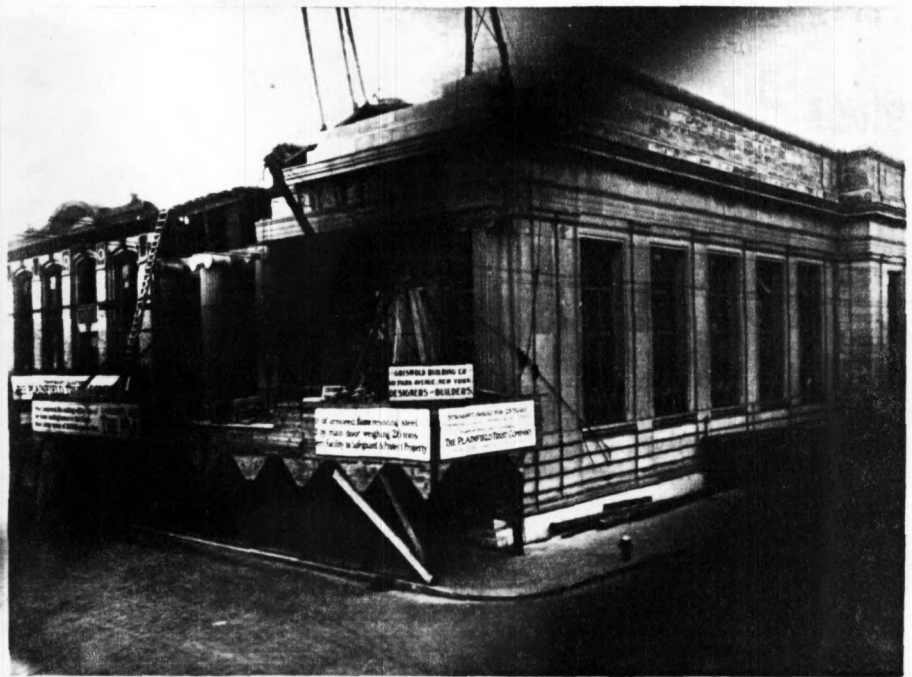
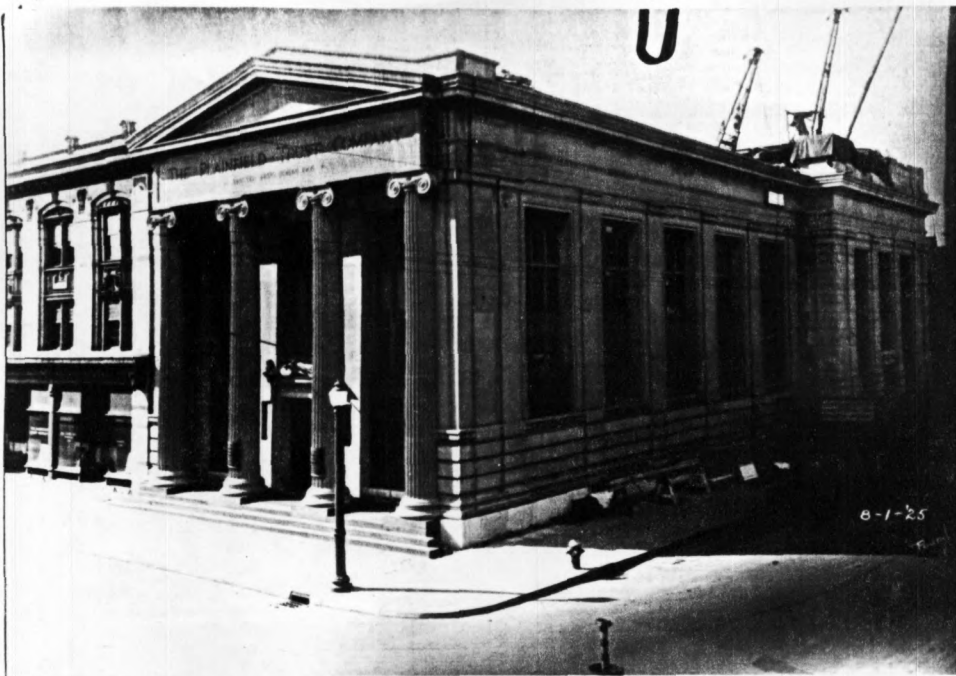
Recessed entryways and drive through at rear. Present building has been attached to adjoining 212 Park Avenue on interior. Alternate projecting horizontal feature strips of projecting stone 8' high with heavy ornate moulded base. Ornate copper window moulding and decorative covers over high three storey sash opening on main banking area. Neo-classic architectural style. Bank has one projecting wing 40' long on Second Street next to "drive-in" rear area. Ornate bronze decorative window ornamentation at base of 50' high windows on Park Avenue front. Six Ionic 5' diameter fluted columns on Park Avenue facade.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Built as first large bank.

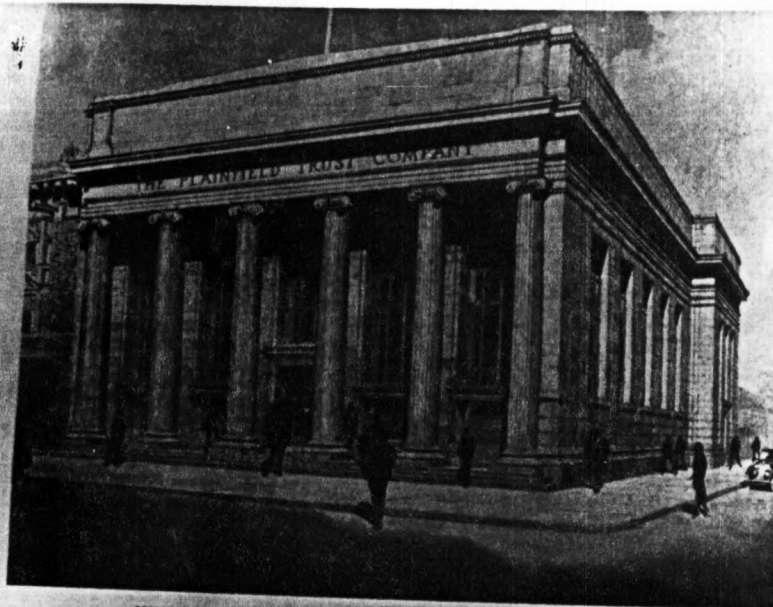
PRESENT USE
bank





The bank building on the corner of Park and Second Street has undergone numerous alterations and expansions since 1925.

Photographs courtesy of Dottie Pollard, United National Bank.



NEW BUILDING OF THE PLAINFIELD TRUST COMPANY





Plainfield Trust Company
building on Park and Second
Street after expansion.
Adjoining building has been
narrowed.



LOCATION 212 and 216 Park Avenue

BLOCK LOT
403 7

PRESENT OWNER United National Bank

AGE 1880 LOT SIZE 137.5 x 164 BUILDING SIZE 90 x 100

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH 24/1; small leaded over line

BAYS 5 STORIES 3 CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Beaux Arts style; four projecting bays;
rope moulding; pineapple in peaked projection at roof line.
Ornamental grill in 3rd floor entry key.
First floor altered with gray marble applied surface

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE
banking and offices





212-216 Park Avenue

Top. Detail of front.

Bottom. This ornamental arch over the third floor once accented the center of the facade. Two of seven bays were lost when the adjoining bank building was expanded.

LOCATION 226 - 32 Park Avenue

BLOCK 403 LOT 8

PRESENT OWNER Thomas Furniture Company

AGE 1909 LOT SIZE 50 x 102 ± BUILDING SIZE 50 x

ROOF STYLE flat

TYPE OF SASH glass block

BAYS 6 STORIES 3 CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL glazed white brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

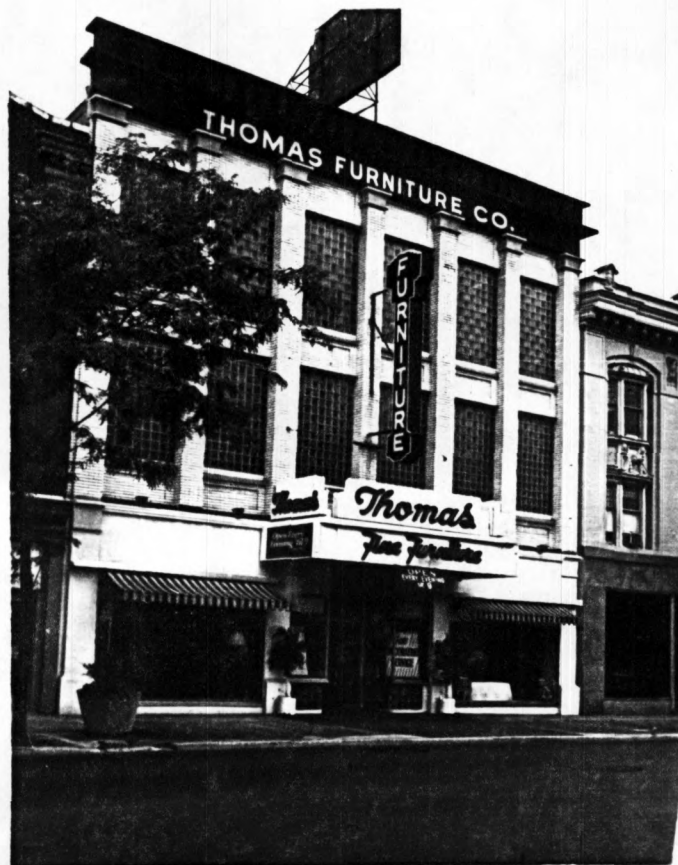
At entrance, new projecting metal roof and signs replace old iron hanging roof. Original sash replaced with glass blocks. Interesting ornamental metal fascia. Cast cement column heads each window line.

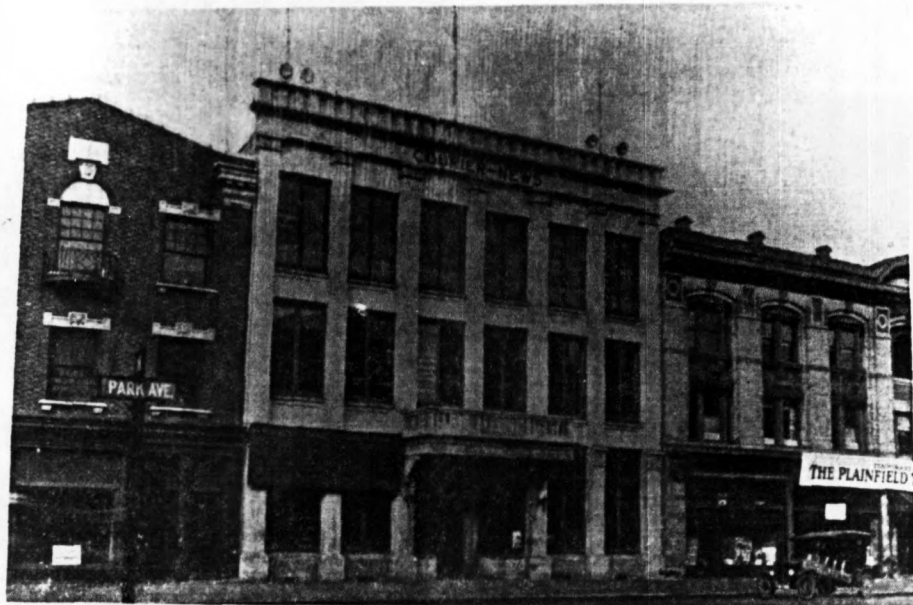
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Building named for C. H. Frost, publisher of the Courier-News in 1920.

PRESENT USE

furniture store





COURIER - NEWS BUILDING

The Frost or Courier-News Building
at 226-32 Park Avenue in 1925.

Courier-News history of Plainfield,
1964.

LOCATION 234, 236, 238 Park Ave.

BLOCK LOT
403 9

PRESENT OWNER Monahan, Plainfield NJ

AGE 1896 LOT SIZE 42.5 x 102 BUILDING SIZE 30 x 60

ROOF STYLE flat with false gable

TYPE OF SASH 6/1 and 8/1

BAYS 3 STORIES 3 CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL hard burned common brick with cast cement features

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Dentil moulding; projecting cast cement sills with short, shallow brackets. Projecting 2 storey triple windows on side. Classic ornamented cast concrete window heads with swags on third floor. Greek key under projecting cornice moulding. First floor front windows altered. Black glass applied over original window heads

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE

First floor has
Christian Science Book-
store, Planned Parenthood
Fisher Realtors



LOCATION 240-46 Park Avenue

BLOCK 403 LOT 10

PRESENT OWNER United National Bank

AGE

LOT SIZE 50 x 104

BUILDING SIZE

ROOF STYLE

TYPE OF SASH

BAYS

STORIES

CONDITION

BUILDING MATERIAL

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

PRESENT USE
vacant lot



LOCATION Depot Park Eastbound Railway Station

BLOCK 280 LOT 6

PRESENT OWNER Conrail

AGE 1890±

LOT SIZE 1500 x 500± BUILDING SIZE 50 x 100

ROOF STYLE hipped

TYPE OF SASH 1/1 and half round

BAYS 6

STORIES 1 + tower

CONDITION fair

BUILDING MATERIAL cut sandstone and brick

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST Richardsonian style.

Three halfround windows on second floor east and above 1/1 sash windows outlined with white sandstone. Walls common red brick. Wide roof overhang with copper painted covering gray slate shingles. Quoins on corners combined with accenting brick course between. Corners at roof accented with square raised panel surrounds and ornamental bracket support above pilasters. Track side of first floor accented with lookout window for ticket agent's viewing. Ornamental metal window protectors. Ornamental copper ca at top of "turret" tower roof.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS Important wealthy New York executives' commuter station.

PRESENT USE





Plainfield Railroad Station
Eastbound by Depot Park

LOCATION 225 Watchung Avenue

BLOCK LOT

107 3

PRESENT OWNER Society of Friends

AGE 1788

LOT SIZE

BUILDING SIZE 34'x 48'

58' front,
222' rear, 253' deep

ROOF STYLE hipped.

TYPE OF SASH 6/6 and 6/12

BAYS 4

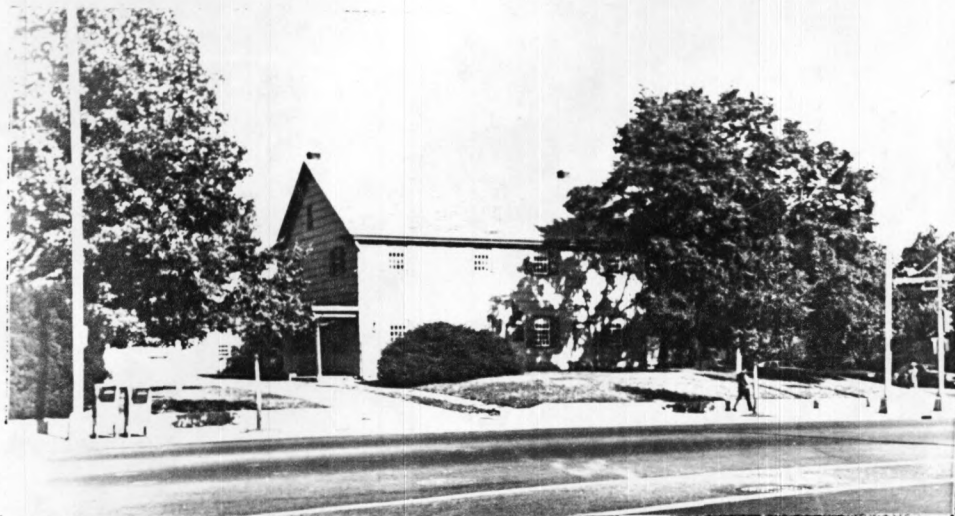
STORIES 2

CONDITION good

BUILDING MATERIAL frame and shingle

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST see following historic sketch

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS
See following historic
sketch.



PRESENT USE
house of worship

Above. Friends Meeting
House in 1983.

Below. Friends Meeting
House in 1895.



FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

A Brief Historical Sketch

One hundred years before the present Plainfield Meeting House was built in 1788, Quakers in this section of Central Jersey met in "Amboy", now called Perth Amboy. Later the Meeting was transferred to Woodbridge where a Meeting House was constructed in 1713. At a Monthly Meeting held at Woodbridge on September 16, 1721 John Laing, a prominent member, was granted permission to hold a meeting at his home on Woodland Avenue near the present Plainfield Country Club. Ten years later, on land bequeathed to the Society by John Laing, Friends built a Meeting House, "not to exceed 24 feet square" which was called the "Plainfield Meeting" at this location.

For over 50 years the original "Plainfield Meeting House" met the need of area Friends. On November 15, 1787, the following minute appears: "The Friends appointed to endeavor to find a suitable place to build a Meeting House at Plainfield report that they all agreed that a lot of land containing three acres near the house of John Webster the third would be a suitable place for said house to be built on, and they propose that the size of the house should be about 34 x 48 feet."

The Meeting agreed, and the new house was first used for the Monthly Meeting held August 20, 1788. The final report on the construction of the new Meeting House was made to the Meeting held on April 21, 1790 and stated "that the expenses of the house is (sic) four hundred and seventy-four pounds, seven shillings and ten pence, exclusive of what stuff was got from the old Meeting House." When the present building was first occupied for Meeting purposes, it was the first house of worship in the small town to become Plainfield. At that time, the Federal Constitution had been formulated only eleven months and George Washington had not yet been elected as the first president of the United States.

A burial ground was established behind the carriage sheds of the new Plainfield Meeting House. The earliest extant dated stone bears the inscription: "1815/H.W." There are, however, reported to have been Friends and "some Indians" buried earlier in the northern corner of the burial ground.

The Meeting House has withstood the rigors of 175 years, with the exception of one end damaged by fire and repaired in 1873, and the substitution of slate in place of the shingled roof in 1922, and is outwardly the same as of old. Inside, the massive timbers have become richly browned by the mellowing hand of time and clearly show the marks of implements used by the builders. The original doors and benches are still in use. Electric lights instead of old oil lamps that swung from the beams and an oil furnace in place of wood-burning stoves so long in use are among the changes made within the building.

In 1955, the need for expansion was again felt, this time for more Sunday School classrooms. A large portion of the old carriage sheds, older than the Meeting House itself since many of the timbers came from the Meeting House on Woodland Avenue, was converted into a five-room, one-story building in the same style as the existing one. An enclosed breezeway connects the old building with the new. The remaining sheds were reconstructed for additional classrooms and for an office for the Meeting Secretary in 1962.

LOCATION 201-221 Watchung Avenue

BLOCK LOT
107 4

PRESENT OWNER United States Post Office

AGE 1917 LOT SIZE 246 x 141± BUILDING SIZE 175 x 85'

ROOF STYLE flat roof with frieze

TYPE OF SASH recessed 6/6 double hung wooded with stationary
light above

BAYS STORIES 1 + basement CONDITION very good

BUILDING MATERIAL cut sandstone

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Classic revival - ten Doric columns support projecting portico. Nine bay matching addition, simple lines, projecting feature strip at basement level. Nine bay original building. Early ornate cast iron electric lights in tall stanchions, original brass painted black. Ornamental grill work at windows. Oscar Wenderoth, architect, 1915.

HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS

Site of Anderson greenhouse

PRESENT USE
post office





Anderson home and greenhouse
which stood on the site of the
Plainfield Post Office at
201 - 221 Watchung Avenue.